

Mandela rejects US offer of funds

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — Banned black activist Winnie Mandela on Wednesday refused a US State Department offer of \$10,000 to help rebuild her home gutted by arson last week.

Mrs. Mandela, wife of jailed African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, said she could not accept money from the US.

In a letter from her lawyer, Ismail Ayob, Mrs. Mandela criticized US President Ronald Reagan personally for several of his comments on South Africa, and said some of Reagan's remarks disturbed her greatly.

Accepting US government funds might create the impression that Reagan's

Malaysia, Morocco hold talks

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Special envoy to King Hassan of Morocco, Habib Ben Cherif, was told Wednesday that Malaysia believes the future of Spanish Sahara should be determined by an internationally supervised referendum, a top ministry official said.

Deputy foreign minister Abdul Kadir Sheikh Fadil told reporters that this was conveyed to him by acting Foreign Minister Adib Adam during talks at which Abdul Kadir was present.

The Spanish Sahara, an area of about 100,000 square kilometers south of Morocco, is a former colony of Spain which Morocco claims as part of its territory.

Morocco is facing resistance from a guerrilla movement, the Polisario, which is seeking independence for the region.

Abdul Kadir said Malaysia did not recognize Spanish Sahara.

He said Malaysia's position on the issue of Spanish Sahara had been very clear, it should be settled by an internationally supervised referendum.

Morocco has been explaining its case on the issue of Spanish Sahara to the world and the special envoys visit here is part of the effort.

Sri Lankan government orders inquiry into killing Tamils

COLOMBO (AP) — Four soldiers were killed Wednesday in a guerrilla landmine ambush in the troubled eastern province, police said.

First reports reaching Colombo said the shootings had followed the explosion at Dehivattae near Muttur but no details were available, police said.

Tamil rebels are fighting for autonomy, or even a separate state, on this island nation.

Information minister Anandattisa De Alwis told reporters after a weekly cabinet meeting in Colombo on Wednesday that president Junius Jayewardene had expressed confidence that good results will come out of peace talks between the government and Tamil groups expected to resume in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan later this week.

De Alwis said Jayewardene had told his ministers that he had spoken to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Tuesday and told him that he had ordered an inquiry under military law into the killings Friday in the northern town of Vavuniya which resulted in the near collapse of the Bhutan peace talks.

While the government has said that 21 people were killed in shooting that followed a landmine ambush on a military patrol at Vavuniya, the Tamils have accused troops of a brutal rampage in which more than 200 were killed.

De Alwis said that Jayewardene had credited Gandhi and his Foreign Secretary, Romesh Bhandari, for keeping the peace talks alive and progressing on sensible lines.

government genuinely opposes apartheid, but our client believes this is not so, and acceptance... would reinforce that incorrect impression", Ayob's letter said.

Mrs. Mandela said, however, she would accept personal contributions toward the rebuilding of her home from individual US Senators, and that she was grateful for messages of support from many Americans.

The US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Frank Wisner, made the offer last week after the attack, which badly damaged Mrs. Mandela's home in the Orange Free State town of Brandfort. She was not at home at the time.

The \$10,000 would have come from the Human Rights Fund, a one-million-dollar allocation from Congress last year for a range of community programmes and other efforts in South Africa.

The State Department administers the money, and US diplomats in South Africa decide how to spend it.

Mrs. Mandela's latest banning order, in effect since 1977, confines her to Brandfort, prohibits her from being quoted in South Africa and bars her from meeting more than one person at a time. Several dozen reporters crammed into Ayob's office for the gathering. She has been arrested before for violating the banning order.

Mrs. Mandela, who visited her husband in Pollsmoor prison near Cape Town last week, said he and other jailed ANC leaders had made it clear they would not accept President P. W. Botha's offer of release if they renounced violence. Mandela, in custody since 1962, was jailed for life in 1964 on charges of plotting sabotage. He is widely regarded as the most important black leader in South Africa.

She also restated long-standing ANC policy that the time for a national convention of all sides to work out a future South Africa has passed. She said the White rulers had refused an ANC request to call such a convention in 1960 before banning the ANC and jailing its leaders.

The minister also said that the cabinet had approved in principle large-scale increases in military expenditures for men, training and equipment.

Aquino's death anniversary

MANILA (AP) — The Philippine military went on alert Wednesday as protesters marched through Manila streets, on the second anniversary of opposition leader Benigno Aquino's still-unresolved assassination.

Manila Cardinal Jaime L. Sin said the country has been thrown into violence because no guilt has been confessed, no role has been acknowledged, no responsibility has been accepted in the assassination. Soldiers have been charged with the 21 August, 1983 murder.

Sin spoke at the Roman Catholic mass for Aquino followers and family members, including Aquino's widow, Corason.

Confetti poured from office buildings in the Makati financial district in a protest similar to those that occurred almost daily in the year after Aquino's death upon his return from self-imposed US exile.

More than 10,000 marchers followed behind a flatbed truck carrying a life-size white statue of Aquino.

A mass on a second-storey ledge along one march route held a sign saying Cory Aquino for president.



Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and the Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal exchange the documents which they signed on 24 July 1985 to end the three-year-old crisis in Punjab. Sikh extremists opposing the peace agreement assassinated Mr Longowal Tuesday, while addressing a meeting in his home village in Punjab. (Picture: Courtesy — Hindu International edition)

Sikh leader's body cremated

LONGOWAL VILLAGE, India (AP) — The bullet-riddled body of Sikh leader Harchand Singh Longowal was cremated Wednesday in his native village as Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi vowed "to fight terrorism with all our strength."

The body of the 57-year-old pacifist preacher was consigned to a funeral pyre after thousands of bereaved Sikhs, weeping and shouting slogans, marched 20 kilometers in a procession from Sangrur to this dusty village. Longowal was gunned down Tuesday by terrorists, identified as Sikhs, as he addressed a religious gathering.

"Longowal for ever, down with terrorism!" shouted the mourners, paying last tribute to the moderate leaders fragile treaty with the federal government that had been designed to bring peace to Punjab state.

His body, wreathed in roses and marigolds, arrived in this backward village of 8,000 people atop of a car in a motorcade of 200 vehicles. A Sikh high priest from the Golden Temple prayed over the white-bearded, blue turbaned moderate.

The cremation took place shortly after Gandhi, who signed the agreement with Longowal on 24 July on ending Punjab's crisis, told Parliament that India would not yield to terrorism.

"We will fight terrorism with all our strength," the Prime Minister said before the parliament adjourned to mourn Longowal's assassination.

Most shops, businesses, markets and schools throughout Punjab, were shut down Wednesday in a statewide strike called by Longowal's Akali Dal Party to protest the assassination.

No major strike violence was reported, but the United News of India said two unidentified men riding a motor scooter shot and injured a government employee in Jullundur city and robbed him of money.

Egyptian minister arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Egyptian Tourism Minister Wajih Mohamed Shindy arrived in Israel for a three-day official visit Wednesday, a day after the murder in Cairo of an Israeli diplomat.

Shindy said the assassination attack was aimed against the efforts to further peace in the area, but would not succeed in its purpose.

Egypt has been instrumental in recent attempts to start a dialogue between Israel and a joint Palestinian-Jordanian delegation. The attack also came as Prime Minister Shimon Peres was trying to push his cabinet toward some concessions to Egypt in order to warm up relations between the two countries.

The Egyptian government will spare no effort or time to apprehend the criminals and bring them to trial, Shindy told reporters at Ben-Gurion International airport near Tel Aviv.

Diplomat Albert Atrakchi was killed, and his wife Hanna and another Israeli woman employee of the Israeli embassy in Cairo were wounded by two gunmen who raked their car with bullets in the Mandi suburb of Cairo on Tuesday morning.

to be distributed to flood victims in Punjab.

The Indian army has been placed on alert in Punjab and neighbouring states and security was tightened in New Delhi to prevent further violence which has virtually shattered the peace accord. Sikh militants have rejected the pact as a sell-out and vowed to oppose it.

Longowal was shot by four gunmen in the courtyard of a Sikh temple near Sangrur while he appealed for unity between Hindus and Sikhs. He died three hours later in a hospital.

His assassination took place three days after Gandhi announced elections in Punjab despite warnings by Longowal and other opposition politicians that the state was not ready for elections and that premature polling might spark violence.

Chief Election Commissioner R K Trivedi asked Punjab authorities Wednesday to assess the law and order situation in the state to decide whether the elections should be held on 22 September as scheduled.

Qatar's foreign minister dies

MANAMA (AP) — Qatar's Foreign Minister, Sheikh Suhaim Bin Hamad Al Thani, died Wednesday of a heart attack, the Royal Court announced in Doha.

Sheikh Suhaim, brother of Qatar's ruler Sheikh Khalifa, was 52, according to the official Qatar News Agency, monitored in Bahrain.

Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister, Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed, led a stream of Arab foreign ministers and other high officials who arrived in Doha, capital of Qatar, for the funeral and burial rituals.

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Amman 5 - 11 September, 1985

Fighting erupts again in Palestinian camp

BEIRUT (AP) — Gunbattles erupted anew between Shi'ite Muslim militiamen and Palestinian fighters in a sprawling Beirut refugee camp Wednesday, shredding a 10-hour ceasefire, police said.

The fighting with rocket-propelled grenades and heavy machine guns in Bourj El-Barajneh camp came a few hours after a bomb exploded outside the Algerian Embassy in mostly Muslim West Beirut.

Police said they had no immediate casualty report from the new flare-up that broke out in the camp on Beirut's southern outskirts shortly after midday.

The overnight ceasefire had halted the worst upsurge of Shi'ite-Palestinian fighting in 10 weeks. Police said five civilians, including a 2-year-old Shi'ite girl and her 6-year-old brother, were killed and 20 others wounded on Wednesday.

A statement issued by the camp's Palestinian garrison accused the Shi'ite Amal militia of provoking Wednesday's clash by arresting and shooting a Palestinian youth.

The statement said the Palestinians lost one dead and eight wounded in the ensuing battles. Amal earlier blamed the fighting on the Palestinians. It said they broke out of Bourj El-Barajneh and started shooting indiscriminately at Shi'ite inhabited buildings on the Camp's outskirts.

Tension has been building up in the camp since the gunpoint abduction of Mustafa Diab, a ranking Palestinian commander loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat in West Beirut two weeks ago. Palestinians accused Amal of snatching him.

Police said a 5-kilogram bomb exploded at 6:10 am Wednesday, punching a 1 metre hole in a side wall of the three-storey Algerian Embassy building in Beirut's seaside Jnah neighbourhood. No casualties were reported.

The Star has learned

• The Prime Minister Mr Zaid Rifal will lead delegation to the meeting of the Jordanian-Egyptian joint committee scheduled to be held in Cairo next month.

• A top Saudi official is expected to arrive in Amman in a couple of weeks. He would be bringing a message from His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to His Majesty King Hussein.

The visit is considered as a step towards arranging a reconciliation between Jordan and Syria. Saudi Arabia is a member of the committee formed for the purpose by the Casablanca extra-ordinary Arab summit.

• His Majesty King Hussein will open the next ordinary session of the parliament on 1 October. His Majesty will deliver a royal speech. The members will then elect a new speaker.

• Jordan will switch back to the winter time with effect from 1 October in which the watches will have to be reversed by an hour.

• The government has decided to permit Arab and foreign mass media officials to bring with them cassettes, cameras and other professional equipment free of customs duties.

• The Swiss Foreign Minister, Mr Pier Opelt will arrive in Amman 12 September. During his visit the Swiss Minister will hold talks with His Majesty King Hussein, the Foreign Minister, Taher Al Masri and senior Jordanian officials.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio said it received a telephone call from an unidentified man who claimed the bombing for Islamic Amal, a pro-Iranian Shi'ite extremist faction.

The reported claim could not be independently verified. The radio said the bombing was a warning to Amal to stop aiding Amal, Lebanon's dominant Shi'ite militia led by Justice Minister Nabih Berri, which is at odds with radical Shi'ite factions.

"Unless this aid is promptly stopped, Algerian interests everywhere will be a target for attacks by Islamic Amal," the caller was quoted as saying.

Reports in the Arab press recently said Algeria is giving Amal military assistance, including training militiamen, and medical supplies.

Islamic Amal is headed by Hussein Mousawi, a militant Shi'ite with strong ties with Iran. Mousawi splintered from Berri's mainstream Amal after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon. He has his headquarters in the ancient city of Baalbak in East Lebanon's Bekaa Valley.

Beirut newspapers earlier attributed Tuesday's fighting in Bourj El-Barajneh to a quarrel between Palestinians and Amal over who got gasoline at a filling station near the camp.

In another development, a bomb, believed to be in a car, exploded Wednesday in the vegetable market of the Christian town of Zahle on the edge of the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in East Lebanon. Police reported.

The state radio reported a large car bomb explosion at 1220 GMT in the market with heavy casualties and damage. But a police spokesman in the town reached by telephone said it was not immediately known if there were any casualties.

EEC renews co-operation agreement with Jordan

By Khader Mansour
Star Political Writer

AMMAN — The ten-member European Community states are fully supportive of the Jordanian-Palestinian accord and the joint drive for a peaceful end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Mr Jacques Poos, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg told The Star recently. Luxembourg is the current president of the EEC group.

Mr Poos, who was in Amman on an official visit, said the 11 February accord acts as a sound foundation for a peaceful settlement. He praised the American role in the current peace efforts and disagreed with reports which said that the US Assistant Secretary of State Mr Richard Murphy's latest visit to the region was a failure.

"Mr Murphy still maintains good contacts with all parties involved in the peace process," he said. Mr Poos added the meeting between Mr Murphy and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation should take place before the end of September in Amman. Mr Poos said the EEC recognizes the PLO as the "main" representative of the Palestinian people and that a project to broaden this recognition is underway.

The European official said the EEC is still interested in finding a role in the peace process and considers the Venice Declaration of 1979 as commitments the Community will always stand by.

Mr Poos said the American insistence on direct negotiations between the parties involved is wrong. "Such a matter can only be agreed upon within the general

King receives Soviet official

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met Wednesday at the Royal Court the visiting member of the Praesidium of the Supreme Soviet Mr Mikhail Kondakov who is also the President of the Soviet Society of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Arab Countries.

The latest developments in the Middle Eastern region and the bilateral relations between Jordan and the Soviet Union were among the topics reviewed by the King and the Soviet official.

The meeting was attended by Mr Bahij Talhouni, President of the Jordan-Soviet Friendship Society and other members of the Soviet delegation.

Earlier Wednesday, Mr Kondakov met with Dr Nasserudin Al Assad, Minister of Higher Education and discussed with him ways to bolster scientific relations between Jordan and the USSR. Mr Kondakov is also the President of the Soviet Educational Sciences Academy. Also discussed was the issue of increasing the number of scholarships the Soviet Union offers Jordanian students especially in the fields of applied sciences.

The two officials also discussed the possibility of creating a joint Jordanian-Soviet team of scientists and the invitation by Jordan of Soviet researchers to study Arabic language, Islamic history and Arab culture.

Israeli policies condemned

By Sana Alul
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — Away from the political movements and the visit to the Middle East region by US Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, the situation in the occupied territories and Israeli oppressive activities have once more come into focus. These were the subject of a news conference held here Wednesday by some leading Palestinian officials.

Members of different Palestinian factions attended the conference, an indication that there could be disagreements among the factions on other issues but not when it comes to the situation in the occupied territories.

Mr Mohammed Milhem, a member of the Palestine Organization (PLO) Executive Committee and Chief of the Occupied Territories Affairs said: "The Israeli accusation of the PLO's existence in Jordan

and its effects on reinforcing the Palestinian struggle is an Israeli propaganda and a denial of the Palestinian role in the occupied territories."

He added that the confrontation with the Israelis is a spontaneous public reaction of the Palestinians under occupation under the leadership of the PLO.

Mr Saji Sulameh, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and an official of the Democratic Front for Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), said that the iron fist policy which Israel adopted since the beginning of the occupation, didn't stop the Palestinian struggle. He said the renewed struggle is a new united national stage under the PLO banner despite all political disputes.

Ms Isam Abdel-Hadi leader of the Palestinian Women Union said what the Jewish settlers are doing in the occupied territories reflects the Israeli mentality and their procedures to kick the Arabs out of Palestine.

Mr Nabeel Amr, a member of the Revolutionary Council of Fateh movement, said: "The Israeli extremism is clear in this period through the repression practices against Palestinians."

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Jordan

The publishing business in Jordan Part I

THE PUBLISHING business is one of the most inactive businesses in the country. In fact it is said to be among the worst in the Arab world. The Star reporter Samer R. Eid spoke to some authors who gave the reasons for this situation. Following is the first instalment of his report.

According to Mr Mamdouh Al Ghali, author of the book "Horoscopes Series" the publishing business in Jordan has a very bad name.

a) This is due to as he put it, as a result of lack of good books. "This being very much a vicious circle especially that last year only two or three books appeared on the market in Jordan," he said.

b) Writing is very expensive because the government does not provide subsidies to writers. Instead it imposes heavy taxes on them.

c) Prices of books are very high. In comparison, books are 40-50 per cent cheaper in Lebanon or Cyprus and 60-70 per cent cheaper in Hong Kong.

When it comes to printing, Mr Al Ghali made it clear that one has to be very patient, there being much lack of expertise necessary to produce decent quality. After getting through these problems, one falls into the 'distributors' trap' as he put it. He said it is not right for the distributing agencies in Amman to claim 40-50 per cent the price of the book by imposing a monopoly on the market. Distributors may not lose money or even risk losing any.

Secondly, there are a few laws which, if anything, are barely followed. This thereby produces a state of no competition between writers to produce good books and the standard of writing, of course, goes down. One

negative aspect is that no printing companies even ask if it is your book they are printing.

This in turn makes for a limited market in which one book does not arise. Producing a book, then, is something very difficult to do, especially in Amman, in view of the costs, involved. Newsprint, therefore, is transformed into a useless bunch of words with not much of anything to it.

Lack of encouragement from the government leads to a very limited supply of books to the public. A basic problem thus arises: children's books, a very important asset for society, come out for children of a different age and time. Kids today know twice as much as kids in the last generation knew when they were at that age. Books play a very important role in the lives of children and so emphasis

must be made on what was said in order to achieve the standard required for the children to truly benefit from them.

Al Ghali listed the following as the problems which must be tackled if any progress is to be made.

- Distribution problem.
- Lowering price of necessary constituents for producing books such as the price of printing, paper, equipment, and such.
- The distributors' commitment of say 30 per cent.
- The government should have a role in the publishing business leading to the lowering of taxes.

Another author Mr Salim Alnahas, on his part said: "There are many forms of censorship on publications in Jordan. There is

the law of publications of which restricts publication, printing of any material without the authorization of the Ministry of Information. Any book publication would be prohibited, the ministry and without a right of the author or writer to know the reason or have a banning the appearance of a book. The law is immune from law of defence of Jordan.

"Another form of censorship is by the Ministry of Education. It is in the form of a committee of 5 persons who never approve the circulation of any book or publication in schools without their approval."

"The Ministry of Information usually authorizes a book in a publication house. This committee bans it. There is no law wherever you go except the Ministry of Education."

"To escape all these kind of censorship writers are forced to deal with Arab publication houses and the result would be the Jordanian readers are deprived from the production of local writer."

Another aspect of the problem, said Mr Alnahas is, there is no law in Jordan which preserves the writers' right of law of writers rights and publication and composition is a semi-draft and there is no way to get it out to be issued by the parliament.

As a writer, Mr Alnahas published four books outside Jordan and two of those have been prohibited in Jordan. He said, "my book, a novel, has been prohibited according to the law of defence of Jordan. It has direct dealing with sex, religion or race. I have other manuscripts which are now in the hands of foreign publishers and hope that the Arab reader will see them soon."

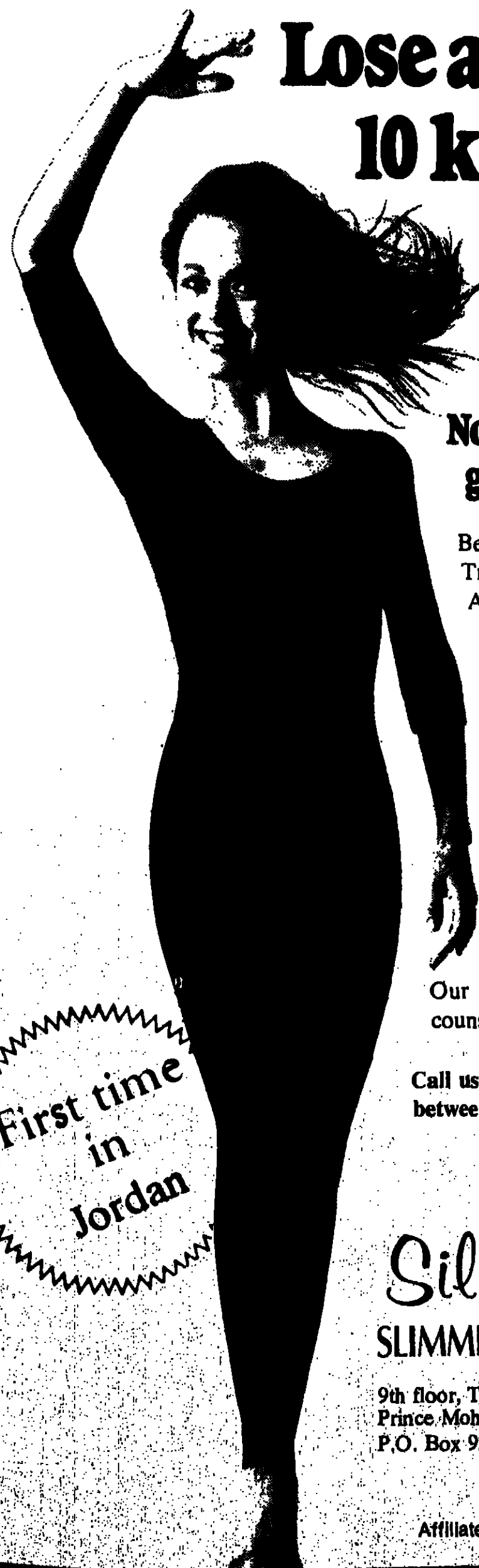
Prior to the Jordanian Writers Association, publication houses in Jordan were no more than licenses in the hands of some people. All publication activities were fruitless because of censorship and inadequate distribution and the power of publishers outside Jordan. It was completely imported books especially from Cairo, and Damascus," he added.

As a publisher, the Jordanian Writers Association started to enter this field without the hope of getting benefit from it. It started to publish and distribute mostly by hand to readers without concentration on making money from them. And it suffered great losses. On the other hand this process activated the publishers and pushed them to review their attitude. There are now more than 80 licenses for publishing with only 15 of them producing books. The association itself has already published until now about 100 books.

"I think that publishers themselves are acquainted now with their problems and are trying hard to solve them. Changing the laws of publication in Jordan would open a new horizon for the book industry. In Jordan maybe up to the extent of ourselves-exporters of books to only importers as it has been before and to a certain extent still the same," said Mr Alnahas.

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health

The West Bank battles for its health

Services are deteriorating seriously

By Miriam Ryan
Compass News Features

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Health services in the Israeli-occupied West Bank of the Jordan have seriously deteriorated under pressure of financial cuts and military restrictions, according to demoralised workers.

Salaries are about half of those paid in Jordan, while the patients-per-doctor figure is more than double. At the same time, 200 Palestinian physicians are forbidden to practise without permission from military authorities.

Senior health workers say conditions have slipped back to their state in the days before Israel seized control of the West Bank in 1967. Health indicators show that in 1960 Jordan's infant mortality figures (babies dying aged less than one year) were as high as 136 per 1,000 births. Today vastly improved maternal and child health facilities for the 3 million population have reduced this figure to around 60.

In the West Bank Rift Valley region, where a third of the 905,000 Palestinians live, a number of studies have shown infant mortality rates of around 100 per 1,000.

Years of dedicated and painstaking work by UNRWA in the refugee camps has reduced this figure to around 40 per 1,000 among the 300,000 refugee community, by reducing the incidence of killer gastro-enteritis and respiratory tract infections.

Dr Feisal Hussein, a field health officer for UNRWA, points out that the majority of women still fail to put on sufficient weight during pregnancy.

as a result of stress or undernutrition.

This in turn leads to premature deliveries, which now account for 20 per cent of infant deaths. Although a reliable bank of health statistics has been built up on the refugee community by UNRWA, the ban on research in other parts of the territories by the Israeli authorities, unless channelled through the military, has made reliable assessment of health problems very difficult.

The majority of Palestinian doctors working in the area, including Hussein, regard Israeli government statistics on the Palestinians as laughable. "In their annual submission to the World Health Organisation, the Israelis put these infant mortality rates at 25.6 per 1,000. This is ridiculous," Hussein said.

The government health services on the West Bank are severely demoralised. The total budget of the 140 Israeli-administered clinics and nine hospitals stands this year at just \$8 million — 15 per cent of the budget for one Tel Aviv hospital.

The doctor/patient ratio tells part of the story, with one doctor for 4,000 Palestinians, compared with one doctor per 1,700 for Jordan's population, which is three times larger.

Doctors with crushing caseloads are often able to spend only a few minutes with each patient, and while hospitals remain chronically understaffed, some 200 qualified Palestinian physicians are unemployed, forbidden to practise without permission from the military authorities.

A recent survey of salaries paid to government employed health personnel showed Pal-



Doctors are often able to spend only a few minutes with each patient

tinian salaries, from specialists to staff nurses, to be little more than half of equivalent Jordanian salaries.

The poor pay and conditions are compounded by an almost complete lack of any specialist facilities. Specialist care is virtually nonexistent, with just one radiologist and one ophthalmologist employed by the government; laboratory technicians are obliged to stand in when anaesthetists are absent.

The story of the Old City of Jerusalem's only Arab-staffed and -administered hospital is representative of the pattern of decline of many West Bank health institutions. A stream of cuts since the annexation of the city in 1967, when the Israeli health ministry took control of the hospital budget, has halved the bed capacity to 50, closed down its specialist units and resulted in severe equipment and supply shortages.

X-ray and laboratory facilities are available for only a few hours each day, and there is no heating or permanent hot water. Now, in view of what is perceived to be low standards of care, the hospital has been given notice by the health ministry together with Jerusalem city council, headed by Mayor Teddy Kollek, that it is to be closed.

This is although bed occupancy has remained at 110 per cent and staff there have the fullest confidence of the community, many of whom could never afford the fees demanded at an Israeli general hospital.

Whether Palestinians could be encouraged to attend Israeli hospitals under an insurance scheme the Israelis are anxious to implement throughout the West Bank remains questionable, according to Dr Yasser Abdel, a spokesman for the Old City hospital.

"Health and medical well-being is more than just a matter of correct physical treatment and drugs," he said. "A patient needs moral and psychological support also. The Israelis are suggesting that with medical insurance, which many cannot afford, Arabs could be treated at their Hadassah hospital, where the language, culture and traditions would be alien. Surely this cannot be a humanitarian act?"

At the moment some 30 per cent of the Palestinian population are paid-up members of the Israeli insurance scheme, which should entitle them to free treatment in Israeli hospitals.

According to one senior Palestinian surgeon working at one of

Jerusalem's private hospitals is not so straightforward. "I paid-up Palestinian to be referred to a specialist Israeli hospital, he or she must transfer papers from the military. The military will have most only half a dozen of these papers, and after they have out, there will be no more transfers," the surgeon said.

Many Palestinians refer to an insurance scheme as an expensive way of curing a sore throat or cold, meaning that even this scheme Palestinians have access to little more than a cure.

With many government facilities hardly worth the cost and the ever-increasing financial constraints under UNRWA and other agencies, providing health care services to work, a number of Palestinian health professionals have been organising themselves on a voluntary basis since the 1980s to bridge the yawning gap in health care.

Concentrating on the Rift Valley, which is heavily overcrowded, these groups of doctors and nurses originally concentrated in mobile clinics.

Their sporadic studies reveal a high incidence of malaria; among children, and a high incidence of unexpected diseases such as rheumatism and the mal disease brucellosis, far from the expected high incidence of diabetes and hypertension in part to the extremely high temperature in the valley.

These findings confirmed an earlier study carried out by a Community Health Unit of the Zeit University, which found up to 50 per cent malaria among the under-fives in the region, combined with a high incidence of respiratory and gastro-intestinal diseases, a large part attributed to the absence of clean water and sanitation.

A further study of the water supply in eight villages concluded that the water taken from nearby springs and stored in large houses for drinking was unacceptable by international standards even for animals.

The voluntary Palestinian groups, called Medical Committees, also discovered that of the 3,000-4,000 villages examined in their mobile clinics, the first few months of the one-third were being physically examined for the first time. Possible explanations for the prevalent diseases continued to go unnoticed. Israeli government statistics on disease incidence in the West Bank simply show the absence of any significant increase or decrease in diseases such as diphtheria, polio and tetanus, while acknowledging a low level of reporting.

Just how long the Medical Committees will be able to do on doing research on the semi-clandestine basis and providing the much-needed medical care and health advice to the most hard-pressed village communities remains to be seen.

Many of those involved ascribe themselves as volunteers under the constant threat of harassment from the Israeli military authorities; they say their sessions are not infrequently broken up by military command for doctors to be taken to questioning.

Miriam Ryan is author of *The Economist Intelligence Unit report, Health Services in the Middle East*.

Jordanian-Palestinian accord is an important move', Leclercq

Physicists discuss use of laser beams

By Sana Alul
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN (Star) — "If the Jordanian-Palestinian accord is carried out to its implementation, it should bring peace to the area," said Mr Patrick Leclercq, the new French ambassador in Amman. Speaking to The Star in an interview recently Mr Leclercq said "the accord is a very important move, and France is giving it all needed support and help." He said "we've been operational in getting the EEC to support the accord and we have informed the US about our standpoint on the issue."

Mr Leclercq said France sees the Palestinian issue not only as a human problem, but also from its dimensions. He said Palestinians who had been driven away from their land and home, should be given the right, as any other nation to determine their future. Mr Leclercq added that there has been a PLO office in Paris since the past 10 years.

Commenting on the difficult situation of the Palestinians under occupation, the ambassador said: "No military occupation has the sympathy of the French authorities."

On the Middle East crisis in general, and the Lebanese problem in particular, Mr Leclercq said, "The Lebanese situation is a tragedy, everyday we see a new outbreak of violence, new terror-ist acts, and most often more dead and wounded." He said France has expressed her special



Mr Patrick Leclercq

historical relation with Lebanon in various circumstances, adding that whenever the Lebanese authorities asked France for any help, the latter did its best. He said, "no country outside the area has done more for Lebanon than what France has done. It is a tragedy that all the efforts up to now have not been successful to bring back peace in Lebanon."

Mr Leclercq said that the Lebanese problem became complicated because of the outside interference, some of which were aimed at helping to solve the problem, yet, others had their own objectives. The ambassador said however that, it is

only the Lebanese, who have the right to determine their future, without any outside pressures.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Mr Leclercq said the five-year old war has brought tremendous casualties to both countries. "We recognize the Iraqi positive response of peace initiatives, and we hope peace will be achieved in this area, and the sooner it will be the better," he added.

Commenting on the French military support for Iraq Mr Leclercq said "our contacts with Iraq were signed before the war, so we kept our commitments and this is what makes the other countries trust and deal with us."

Jordan and France

Mr Leclercq said that relations between Jordan and France have traditionally been good, and that it began to be stronger and more positive and useful in the period of General Charles de Gaulle. "There was great mutual respect, I was told, between him and His Majesty King Hussein. Things have followed along through the period with President Giscard d'Estaing and President Mitterrand," he added.

In the political field, we understand correctly the problems, mentalities and the whims and initiatives in Jordan," Mr Leclercq said. In the economic field, the ambassador said France has done quite a few things, especially in the field of telecommunications. He said however that there is room for doing more, adding he hopes to achieve wider results during his mission in Jordan.

On cultural relations between the two countries Mr Leclercq said that a very important exhibition on Jordan will take place at the end of next year in Paris. He said the exhibition will help not only the French public, but also other Europeans to know more about Jordan. The ambassador added that there are about 30 scholarships for Jordanians to study in France every year.

There is a very active French Cultural Centre in Amman and also a high level French institute for archaeology, where a team of French specialists work closely with their Jordanian counterparts. There is also the programme in French on the Jordanian Television, which among other things inform Jordanians more about the lives of the French people.

By Kathy Kakish
Special to The Star

AMMAN — Laser beams and its widespread applications in almost all scientific fields, especially in medicine, agriculture and engineering, is foreseen to have a major role in Jordan's future development process. That is why the Third Petra School of Physics carefully chose as its topic 'Laser Physics and Applications'. The nine-day meeting began at the Yarmouk Liaison Office last Sunday.

The seven lecturers from the United Kingdom, France, Sweden, Italy and the United States are steering the discussions of participants who include some of Jordan's 40 community physicists, Jordanian scientists working in various institutions and 18 Arab and foreign physicists.

This is the third bi-annual scientific activity the Petra School of Physics conducts to disseminate advanced physics at an international level. "The idea of establishing such a 'school of physics' was suggested by Pakistani Professor Salam, a Nobel Laureate in Physics, during two visits to Jordan in 1980 and 1981," Dr Humam Ghaseeb, a member of the school's organizing committee explained.

Dr Ghaseeb, a professor of physics at the University of Jordan, said that the aims of this school are to stimulate scientific research in Jordan, to create a

sort of a "white forum" for the exchange of new developments in physics for Jordan and the Arab world, and to help Jordanian physicists "stand on their feet".

The name of the school, Petra, was selected because of the indigenous people who constructed the ancient city two thousands years ago, the Nabateans. "The lofty structure of nobility and spirit we see at Petra is what we are trying to illuminate in physics and science in general," Dr Ghaseeb said.

The First Petra School of Physics was held in October 1982 to discuss two items, the electronic behaviour in crystalline solids, and the sub-theme was related to nuclear instrumental methods associated with solid state physics. This relates to the Particle Induced X-ray Emission (PIXE) Technique off the graph accelerator found at the University of Jordan. The Second Petra School was organized in December 1983.

As for the topic of this meeting, Dr Ghaseeb explained that laser, a device for creating a very strong and coherent beam of light that has very wide applications, is becoming common place not only in developed countries, but as well in developing countries. "I'm sure it will be used widely in the next coming years in Jordan, not restricted only to the country's academic institutions, but rather in other various institutions," he concluded.

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Japanese flour for Palestine refugees

Under an agreement signed in Vienna on 28 August, the government of Japan is giving the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) flour valued at \$3.4 million for distribution to Palestinian refugees.

Japan is also paying the \$1.3 million cost of transporting the flour to the Middle East.

In 1985, Japan has also contributed \$9 million in cash to help run UNRWA's education, health and relief programmes for Palestine refugees. Including the 1985 contribution of cash and flour, Japan has given UNRWA \$106 million since the Agency began operations in 1950.

Jordan Field Office

It is with great regret that due to delays in shipments by contributing countries, supplies of corned beef and skim milk will not be available for distribution in time in the Jordan Field.

The skim milk is expected to arrive at Aqaba Port on or around 2 September on board SS Mouta which sailed from Antwerp on 12 August. Corned beef is expected to arrive at Queen Alia International Airport from Europe on or around 2 September.

Customs clearance, transportation and bagging of skim milk will take approximately 2 weeks.

Jordan Field Office therefore, has decided to postpone the distribution to special hardship cases, pregnant and nursing women and TB patients which will now commence on 22 September.

A revised schedule for distribution for the various localities will be announced later.

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Qadhafi's tricks

THE REGIME of the Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi is at it again, confusing Arab unity with animosity between brothers and co-operation and friendship with military harassment. This time the tension is on the Tunisian-Libyan borders.

The coldness began with Libyan action of firing and expelling thousands of Tunisian and other expatriate workers. Some months before, Tripoli decided to expel thousands of Egyptians working in Libya — also with a result of damaging further its relations with Egypt. We can never understand the logic of Qadhafi's actions. First his decisions hurt innocent and needy workers who have nothing to do with the making of their countries' foreign policies and principles. What the colonel successfully creates are problems for countries like Egypt and Tunisia, but nothing more. Those people will not turn against their governments — as he might calculate — and demand the application of Arab unity or else.

Second, the colonel succeeds in creating more enemies for Libya and his regime than bringing such countries closer to him and his philosophies. News reports now speak of army concentrations along the Tunisian-Libyan and Egyptian-Libyan borders. And what good does this bring to all parties concerned.

Third, such conduct proves the bankruptcy of the colonel's regime. Qadhafi has failed as an Arab leader, as an African leader and obviously as a Libyan leader. That is why his own air force officers mutinied when he ordered an attack against Tunisian cities. And that is why resistance to his policies and against his regime is on the increase inside and outside Libya.

The colonel is correct when he realizes the good Libya can bring to its sister Arab countries. But he is wrong in his ways. Libya can help the poorer Arab countries — much more it can help millions of Arabs who seek work and Libya needs to build its infrastructure — schools and hospitals. This is one way Libya can enjoy the fruits of Arab unity and may be, set an example everyone will envy and attempt to emulate.

Buy Jordanian

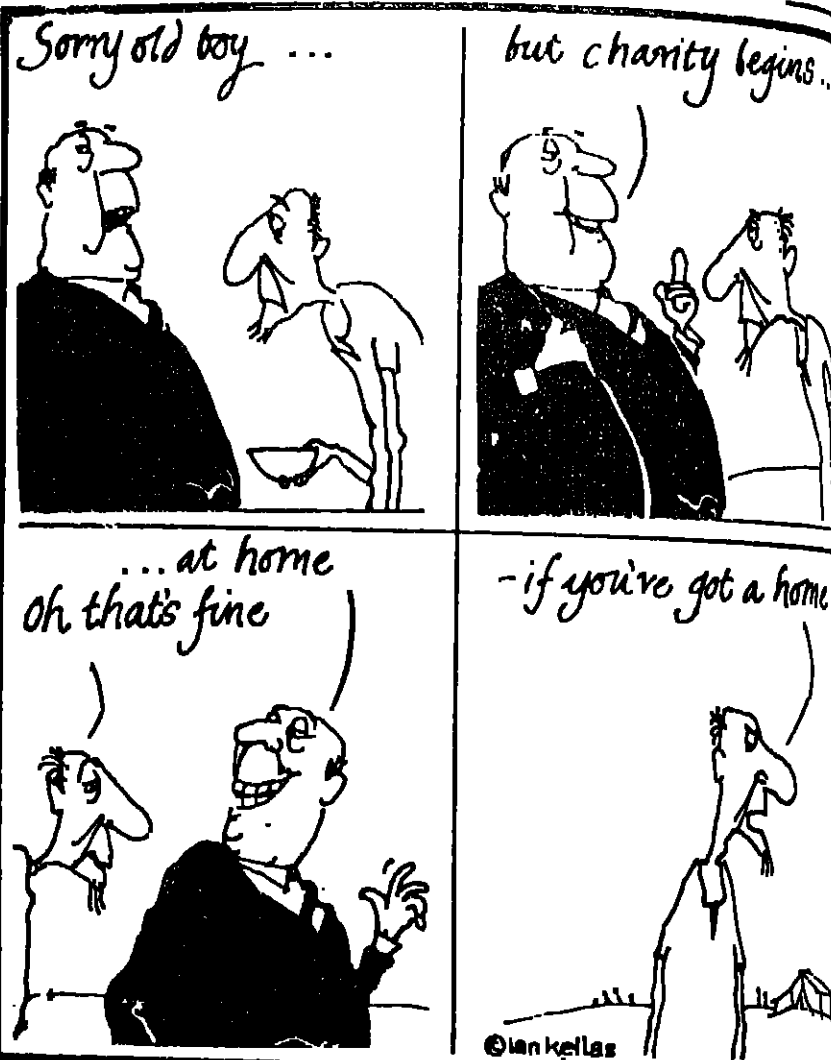
THE RECENT government actions aimed at promoting and encouraging local industry, by prohibiting the importation of certain products that are manufactured indigenously is a welcome step.

But while stopping the importation of such goods there needs to be an action to ask the local manufacturers of these products to accelerate production to meet the local demands as well as raise the quality of these products to substitute the foreign goods. And for that matter the existing infrastructure needs to be expanded with modern technology apart from setting up additional production units where the capacity is minimal. Also equally important is the proper utilization of skilled manpower.

It is also important to create a buy Jordanian consciousness in the people, who have special liking for imported goods even if in reality they are inferior to the indigenous products. They forget the fact that by buying foreign goods they are causing a drain on the hard foreign reserves of the country while at the same time discouraging the local industries which often results in the closure of avenues for expansion and employment.

The entrepreneurs need to cooperate with the government to exploit the maximum of the natural resources and the local manpower to produce high quality products in abundance while the consumers need to sacrifice in certain cases the quality offered by imported products. But such a sacrifice through the buying of Jordanian goods, would provide the citizenry with a healthy industrial-based economy the only source the nation can rest upon. This would create employment for all and save the foreign currency for the importation of special items that are required for the industrial development and expansion. Through systematic planning and coordination with the support of the industrialists and the cooperation of the people, what our leaders visualize could easily be attained.

CARTOON COMMENT



Calling a spade a shovel

TWO SUICIDE bombers blew up the cars they were driving at checkpoints in Lebanon, killing 15 Lebanese... Two Israeli soldiers and four Lebanese were wounded. It was the first recurrence of the suicide car-bomb campaign against Israeli and Lebanese allies since Israeli forces completed their pullout from South Lebanon June 10. (Associated Press, Tel Aviv, July 9, 1985.)

It would be interesting to ask AP to solve the mystery for us of how two Israeli soldiers could have been wounded if Israel's troops had already withdrawn from Lebanon. But we know, of course, that there is no mystery. Ever since Israel's posed "withdrawal," hundreds of Israeli soldiers and secret service men stayed in an Israeli-designated "security zone" of south Lebanon to help Israeli-sponsored militia, the so-called "South Lebanon Army," maintain order. Israel has made clear that neither the Lebanese army nor the peacekeeping force authorized by the United Nations are welcome in this slice of Lebanon's territory.

Obviously, the AP story should have said that this was the first time suicide bombers had gone into action since Israeli officials "claimed" they had withdrawn troops from Lebanon. Ironically, it was in order to lash out against Israel's presence in their country that the suicide bombers did what they did. Since there have been other such attacks, carried out for the same motives — to rid Lebanon of Israeli troops and their proxies. We hope we can assume that by the time the AP Bureau in Tel Aviv has drawn the proper conclusions.

The South African crisis

Continued from page 10

Thus when black workers inside South Africa staged demonstrations this July, the regime responded by a national state of emergency. South African leaders are convinced that Reagan's verbal jibes are meaningless, and that the suppression of human rights throughout the region has the administration's continued blessing.

The US State Department has recently confirmed this analysis. In a recent official study, the Reagan administration said the racial unrest inside South Africa "is not a revolutionary or a pre-revolutionary situation."

Economic boycotts would "not stop foreign investment," according to a State Department official quoted in the New York Times. "People who want to invest always find a way to do it."

And as for the recent uprisings, the real position of the State Department is one of contempt: "Sharpeville blew over, Soweto blew over, and even though this is worse, there's nowhere it can really go."

The strategic considerations of Pretoria and Washington are based on the assumption that protest against apartheid can be "managed" or "manipulated." But inside the United States, throughout the summer, protests and rallies against South Africa have continued.

In late July, more than 2,000 delegates at the National Urban League's 75th annual conference demonstrated at the South African Embassy in Washington,

and on 24 July, demonstrators pulled the Federal building in Seattle to the ground, demanding the end of US aid and loans to South Africa.

On August 2-4, an apartheid conference was held in Chicago. Chicago Mayor Harold Washington was the leader of the ANC. The AFL-CIO federation denounced the state of emergency as "the most extreme violation of all basic rights," and organized a call for economic and diplomatic pressure to halt racist violence.

The only hope for a peaceful solution to South Africa is the release of Mandela and all political prisoners, immediate negotiations between legitimate black leaders and the white minority government with the goal of the abolition of apartheid, and the extension of democratic rights to the non-white majority.

Neither Reagan nor the leaders of South Africa are willing to accept these terms — but protests from Americans and South Africans will continue to exert pressure until they are met.

Bob Hitecock was a reporter in South Africa for 18 years and is the author of *Go Home and Flashpoint Africa*. He is training officer for the *Newspapers Ltd* in Nairobi.

Dr Manning Marable is professor of political sociology and director of African and Hispanic Studies at Colgate University, Hamilton, New York.

Kamel Abu Jaber



'Murphy'

Greetings to Jerusalem!

These leaders are urgently seeking ways to advance the cause of peace. I have heard their views on how best to proceed... the challenges do not dismay us. I will not return to Washington to report what I have learned this trip to the President and the Secretary of State... One is bound to ask "When will the United States learn the facts?" Since Truman, the United States has been heavily involved in the affairs of the area and since that time scores and scores of Senators, Congressmen, Secretaries of State and their assistants and deputies have visited the area, studied it, and ostensibly reported back their findings.

After Mr Murphy's second visit to Amman Mr Zaid al-Rifa'i, Jordan's Prime Minister said, "We are still waiting for the position of the United States..." to be clarified. This after eighteen years of Israeli occupation of the remainder of Palestine, in addition to Taba, and the Golan Heights. Once again the Jordanian Premier emphasized to Mr Murphy that Jordan will not negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians. He also emphasized that Jordan's take-off point is the February 11, 1985 Jordanian-Palestinian Accord based on the Fez Arab Peace Plan of 1982 which in turn is based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of 1967. Mr Murphy, of course, knew, or must have known all that as well as the fact that Jordan will not, under any circumstances conclude a separate peace with Israel.

Why is it that the Americans believe what the Israelis say but not what we say? Now that I posed this question I suppose I better not answer it. Why is the United States in need of Israeli approval before it can talk to a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation? How was it possible for Mr Henry Kissinger, while Secretary of State in 1975 to lay down the dictum that the United States will not talk to the Palestine Liberation Organization until the latter meet certain conditions agreeable to Israel? The same Kissinger who negotiated with the Viet Cong while the latter were fighting a war with his country?

It is obvious that Israel does not want peace. The Americans must know that. They must also know that should Israel really want peace, it is a peace on its own terms which cannot be acceptable to the Arabs, either moderates or radicals. That Israel has no intention of an exchange of land for peace is, or should be obvious to the United States as well as to the Arabs. What then is the game? Who is outmanoeuvring whom?

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One of the iron-clad laws of Murphy, not Richard but another Murphy, states, "If anything can go wrong it will." This is especially true of the Middle East situation. This same Murphy enunciated another law which goes, "Every man has a scheme that will not work." Put together these two laws certainly describe the situation of the other Murphy, the Assistant Secretary of State!

So where does that leave the whole situation? It is an understatement to say that the situation now looks grim. It is: barring some miracle, going to look grimmer in the future. This not because of some external extra-terrestrial interference but because we Arabs are doing little to help ourselves. Nations are never nice to each other out of altruism; and peace, like war, cannot be won while we are so hopelessly weak, divided and disorganized. Like war, peace cannot be won unless one is on his feet: it can never be a handout!

Will the US bail Mexico out of its economic troubles?

A view from America

By Dana Adams Schmidt



WASHINGTON — People in the United States pay singularly little attention to what is happening to their fellow Americans to the north and to the south of US borders. The attitude towards Mexico in particular is one of rather tolerant annoyance and impatience — such as an older brother might have towards a younger sibling who is always in trouble, always broke, always preparing for a fresh start.

But lately the news from the south is devastating that older brother will have to take time to study the matter, and decide what the United States can do to help.

Mexico's problems are in some respects similar to those of some Arab countries but worse — dependent on a shrinking oil income, deeply in debt, faced with possible bankruptcy. Here are some of the facts:

• Mexico has a \$95 billion foreign debt.

• In July the government devalued the peso from 250 to nearly 350 pesos to the dollar.

• Inflation is growing rapidly, capital is fleeing, imports up, exports down, investment and saving declining.

• The price of oil, on which Mexico depends for 75 per cent of its exports, is still declining. If it goes much lower, say below \$20 a barrel, Mexico could run out of money.

• During the first seven months of the year the export surplus on which Mexico depended to pay about \$35 billion annually in debt service, declined by 47 per cent.

Mexico's problem is complicated by the fact that the government is showing signs of weakness. In elections a month ago there appears to have been a good deal of irregularity by which the ruling institutional re-

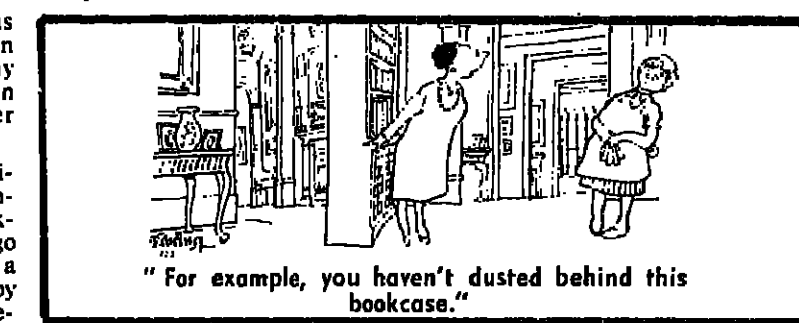
volutionary party sought to bolster some failing in the influence which has kept it in power for half a century. There have also been reports of more than usual levels of corruption and much of it linked to the trade in drugs.

The problem that face the United States, the International Monetary Fund and a number of large Western banks is whether they should club together, as in the past, raise a few billion dollars and bail Mexico out of its trouble and enable it for a year or so to continue paying on its formidable international debts?

If this is done, will Mexico regain economic health, or is it more likely to slip again after a few years into insolvency and join with some of its Latin neighbours in suspending international payments?

Or should the United States take the initiative towards finding a more imaginative and constructive solution. This might consist of scaling down Mexico's debts, bringing down interest payments to 10 or 20 per cent of exports. This middle road could give Mexico breathing room to work out its economic problems without defaulting. This is the solution recommended in an article in *The New York Times* by Jorge Castaneda, a graduate professor of political science at the National Autonomous University of Mexico.

As one of the urbanists put it the skyscrapers are damaging the quality of life — walls of concrete and glass closing New Yorkers in when what they crave is relief from the tension conveyed by the towers, squares of air in the sky to breathe and see the sun and the moon.



"For example, you haven't dusted behind this bookcase."

Memorandum

By Osama El-Sherif



Truth in print

THE OTHER day a newspaper was born joining a multitude of sisters in the Arab world. It was an ordinary birth conducted by limitless Gulf fundings and available roughly-skilled journalists. Unfortunately the journalistic profession will not gain from such a birth and the Arab world cannot expect literacy to increase or knowledge to spread.

Why do investors put so much money into establishing a newspaper? A wise investor is bound to realize that Gulf papers, where most births are taking place today, are short lived and many cannot be expected to spend their mature lives making profits. Advertisers are on the run, changing economic realities are forcing many businesses to close down or pack and leave and the demographic map which was characteristic of the Gulf region in the past three decades is heading for the inevitable: sudden change in the make-up of life in that area. The coming decade will witness one of this century's most rapid disintegration of existing social, economic and political establishments. And it will happen in the Gulf.

Again why put money in an expensive operation like a newspaper, where on the average you lose money for the first three years before you can expect to make some. One answer would be prestige

and political identification. He who owns a paper can expect status, authority and exposure — something all the politicians of the world dream of having. A newspaper gives you that because like a politician a newspaper derives its strength from the public.

But there is one clear difference between newspapers and politicians: The people believe news-men even when they are telling lies and disbelieve politicians even when they are telling the truth.

And that is what the press is all about in this part of the globe. Call it responsible. Not really. The living conscience of the people. Far out. Like many similar power centres, the press is becoming a target of control by the powerful few and a tool to be used by those who can afford her.

That is why the message of newspapers is no longer alive or honoured. That is why not one Arab journalist covered or is covering the Lebanon. That is why not one newspaper dared to go to the Sudan and cover the famine. That is why truth is evasive when we talk about the Gulf war. And that is why the Arab press isn't present when an event takes place, but is always lagging behind making a thousand calculation before publishing what it thinks as fit.

South Africa: Apocalypse soon?

Only an about-turn by the South African government and a new willingness to talk to black leaders can avert armed confrontation between black and white. But with the immense power of the state security apparatus, the revolution is not yet at hand.

By Bob Hittchenek
Compass News Features

NAIROBI — What future for that bloodied and unhappy land, South Africa? The headline "The Last Nail In The Coffin?" published recently in a Kenyan newspaper over an article about white rule in South Africa, was pathetically off the mark.

Anyone who believes white South Africans are about to throw in the towel in the face of a few thousand rioters and some 200 ANC guerrillas is wearing rose-tinted spectacles or is grossly ill-informed.

In fact, the current flare-up, like those of the past, has resulted in a clearing of the white forest, with even sympathisers of the black army supporting the near-mutual law conditions.

The bulk of the 1 million or so whites in that country are conscious of being African. Some, no more with pride than their ancestors arrived at the Cape in the 17th century. Before the main African tribes.

The men and many of the women will tell you the Voortrekker spirit is still alive and they will accept a black government only after they are dead, gun barrels still hot in their hands.

There is an obsessionary preparedness for action practised in tens of thousands of white households in times of emergency. Most white families have at least one shotgun or pistol in the home, and most white men and a growing number of women carry revolvers in holsters or handbags.

South Africa today has its own thriving armaments industry, its army, chiefly white, is the most up-to-date and the best trained in Africa, the air force flies modern fighter-bombers and gunships, the police, a paramilitary force, is well trained, well equipped and without humanity.

There are also the unofficial white armies, the most potentially dangerous being an extremist group that is increasingly defying the government, calling for the end to "Botha Liberalism." Scenarios within the next two years or so could include a bid by white supremacists to grab power by force from the "liberal Botha government."

If this possibility became a real threat, the South African military might stage a coup to forestall such a plan. This could lead to the bizarre situation of a by-then bolstered ANC guerrilla force and waves of black rioters finding themselves in the cross-fire of armed conflict between military forces of the South African government and anti-government white terror groups.

Another possibility is an effort by black labour to institute an industrial slow-down by sabotage and other industrial action. There could also be a withdrawal of black labour from time to time under the direction of ANC agents who, for the past two years, have been infiltrating the republic from their training grounds in North and Central Africa, the Middle East and China.

The guerrillas are likely to step up bombings of strategic installa-

tions, and perhaps will turn to large department stores and other public places to intimidate whites and blacks who buy from white-owned stores.

Black resentment will grow, particularly if the Botha government continues to snub legitimate black leaders like Bishop Desmond Tutu, whose desire for dialogue to halt the bloodshed is genuine.

When 8 to 10 years' time, which I consider the earliest that South African blacks supported by world opinion and widely-practised trade sanctions against Pretoria might wrest control from battle-weary, weakened and demoralised whites?

The most likely antagonists at that point might be the predominant tribe, the proud Zulus, in conflict with the ANC. The likelihood is that Chief Gatsha Buthe, or his successor as Chief Minister of KwaZulu will put to use the tribal armory if



Anti-apartheid demonstrators on the march: Clubs stones and matches against automatic rifles.

necessary to ensure the Zulus have a controlling interest in South Africa's first black government.

What of the chances of today's white rulers and their supporters displaying political sanity before what the late Prime Minister John Vorster once termed "a catastrophe too appalling to contemplate?"

One feels that today only a full U-turn by the Botha government could achieve even partial peace on the South African battlefield. And that would mean the total dismantling of apartheid.

If there is a black spokesman who might in the next year or two make Botha and his colleagues draw in their reins a bit, it is Bishop Tutu. But racial pride — and the fear of backlash from the ultra-right wing of Afrikanerdom — is almost certain to prevent Botha offering anything more than lightweight cosmetic changes.

Tutu is fully aware of the "mission impossible" he has set himself in trying to get the Afrikaner government to see sense

and act humanely. The bishop is no doubt aware of the despairing words of the dynamic Coloured leader of the 1970s, Sonny Leon, who said, "We coloureds have been talking to white South Africans for 300 years, and they haven't heard a word."

Reagan on Apartheid — rhetoric and reality

The White House may criticise apartheid in South Africa, but there is little evidence President Reagan is making any serious effort to force change on Pretoria, argues an American academic and writer in this column of personal opinion. Rhetoric aside, US policy remains "constructive engagement" — business as usual.

By Manning Marable
Compass News Features

NEW YORK — Has US President Ronald Reagan finally repudiated his cordial relationship with the white minority regime in South

convert. Shultz said the apartheid system would be destroyed. "The only question is how it will come about. What we are trying to achieve is an end point of change, of citizenship, of freedom."

When South African President P.W. Botha rejected a call by Nobel Peace Prize winner Bishop Desmond Tutu for constructive negotiations on 29 July, the US government was quick to voice objections.

"We believe South Africa's internal situation is such that a meeting between the state president and important black leaders is imperative," declared State Department spokesman Charles Redman. "Dialogue is the only way out of the crisis South Africa faces."

There is an old tendency among American politicians of both parties to say one thing and to do the opposite. The Reagan administration has not abandoned its economic alliance with Pretoria — termed "constructive engagement." Rather, it has been forced to accommodate itself to the widespread anti-apartheid sentiment of domestic and international opinion through rhetorical diversions.

The United States government was shocked when France suspended all new investment in South Africa and recalled its am-

which would ban all loans and investment in South Africa, stop the import of krugerrands, and halt the sale of computer equipment to the government.

The administration's response was two-pronged. The Republican-controlled Senate came up with an attenuated measure proposing limited sanctions, subject to the president's judgement.

Republicans hinted Reagan might veto the House bill. Backing up the threat, party veteran Barry Goldwater declared, "It is a blight on the United States to take this action against a friend, an ally in every war we fought."

Goldwater's assertion was a best a historical distortion. The founders of apartheid's ruling party were openly sympathetic to Hitler. Former Prime Minister John Vorster was leader of a pro-Nazi terrorist group, and P.W. Botha was a leader of the pro-fascist Afrikaner National Party.

The Reagan administration has sought in recent months to undermine anti-apartheid forces in southern Africa through different techniques, among them the separation of South Africa's current unrest from the political dynamics of the region's neighbouring states.

The rhetorical condemnation of Pretoria is followed by political and military aid to South Africa's allies. The best example is Angola. In early June, Lewis E. Lehrman, a millionaire Republican, met with South African-supported UNITA guerrillas in southern Angola, led by Jonas Savimbi.

Technically, the meeting was set to initiate a "Democratic International" of anti-Soviet groups. Representatives from Laos, Afghanistan and Nicaragua were in attendance to sign the pact.

Lehrman said he was not a personal spokesman for Reagan, but that the new alliance was "an expression of the president's sentiments." All parties vowed to "co-operate to liberate our nations from Soviet imperialism."

Reagan has said of Savimbi's group, "Their goals are our goals." The significance of Lehrman's initiative was not lost in Washington and Pretoria.

Lehrman it is known plans to run for president, probably in 1992. His private organisation, Citizens For America, has members in over 300 Congressional districts.

A week after Lehrman's visit the Senate voted to repeal the Clark Amendment, a nine-year-old ban on armed aid to South African-backed guerrillas in Angola. In July, the House also voted 236-185 to repeal the amendment.

Many liberal Democrats were stampeded into supporting the measure, fearful of being called "pro-Communist." But Senator Edward Kennedy observed, "The constructive engagement policy of the Reagan administration has failed, and the administration knows it — so they want to abandon the peaceful route of negotiations and resort to a military one."

The Congressional repeal of the Clark Amendment sent a green light to Pretoria, which understands that the overthrow of the Marxist Angolan government and the suppression of pro-independence SWAPO guerrillas in neighbouring Namibia are crucial to its continued existence.

Total US financial links with apartheid, including bank loans, amount to nearly \$15 billion. The Reagan administration's actions are designed to protect profits, not to save lives or achieve democracy in South Africa.

In June, the House of Representatives voted 297-127 to accept the Grey-Kennedy bill,

THE JERUSALEM STAR

Finance, business & economy

Near East Foundation offers technical assistance to Azraq fisheries project

Aquaculture scientist from US visits the area to study the project

By G.K. Nair
Star Staff Writer

AMMAN — The South Azraq Co-operative Society's (SACS) fisheries project has attracted the attention of a US based voluntary agency, Near East Foundation (NEF), which provides technical assistance to rural development projects in the Middle East and Africa.

As a first step towards NEF's involvement in the project, Mr Brian L. Duncon, Associate Professor at the International Centre for Aquaculture of the Auburn University in Alabama, visited Azraq on behalf of the NEF during the last week of August. Mr Duncon carried out a "pre-feasibility study" of the pilot project and would submit his report to the authorities in a couple of weeks.

The Azraq area is a suitable and ideal place for fish farming in Jordan and the people's response to the project is also encouraging. But what it now demands is a scientific and systematic approach. Mr Duncon told The Star in an interview last week. For that matter, he added, it needs a compact design, proper technical assistance and sufficient funds. The NEF would be able to provide technical support and designs while the SACS would finance the project.

The Ministry of Agriculture pond at Azraq which was being



Azraq: An ideal place for fish farming

Aquaculture is a complex field like Agriculture and hence one will have to specialise in all the fields connected with this science for proper maintenance and management of the project, he says.

Mr Duncon says that the Azraq pilot project can create a "fish conscience" among the consumers and the small agriculturists who can use their own ponds to produce fish. This would meet their own requirement as well as supplement their income by way of selling the surplus in the markets.

Fish farming is a profitable business but to achieve medium and large scale production, it will take a long time and only through modern techniques a successful farming could be established. Contrary to this there are high expectations which he adds, is unrealistic.

Jordan has the technical hands to work in this field. Mr Duncon says, he found two specialists in the Agriculture Ministry who can handle this pilot project and he was confident that with adequate technical support they would be able to do what experts from foreign countries do.

The NEF would provide the project with modern technical assistance and training to these specialists so as to enable them to carry out the work themselves and to train the local scientists to meet the future demands.

The future commercial success of the project, Mr Duncon explains, cannot be determined now because it is only a "small pilot project." However, he adds, there is the potential for a successful large scale production in future. But that can be achieved by step by step. If the project moves on a systematic and scientific method, it can

commence small scale production from early next year. From there it can step into medium and large scale production according to the expansion of the project in the country.

According to a report prepared by a committee set up earlier by the former Prime Minister, the SACS could begin with a modest production of 350 tonnes of fish per annum. This, the report said, could be increased according to the expansion of the project and the cost of project was estimated at JD 300,000. On the other hand, an independent study carried out by SACS itself came out with a recommendation that it could produce 1000 tonnes per year and the cost of the project would amount to JD 446,000.

The fish consumption in Jordan is estimated to reach 6800 tonnes during 1985 according to a study conducted by a British firm. If the Azraq project succeeds through a systematic and scientific method, it can easily meet the local demands and even step into other markets abroad.

The Near East Foundation, says Mr Peter Doan of the NEF's Jordan branch, is helping people to help themselves. The NEF according to him is engaged in various other rural development projects independently and in association with other such agencies in Jordan.

The Foundation's interest, therefore, is mainly to provide technical assistance and training to the local specialists in fish farming so as to enable them to handle the work themselves.

A British firm is also at present conducting a feasibility study and its report is still awaited. Therefore, the future course of action solely rests on the Co-operative society, says Mr Duncon.

Jordanian builds tourist complex in Spain

MADRID — Twentieth-century Arabs are building tourist developments in a country they have occupied for more than 700 years — southern Spain.

On the Mediterranean coast, Ben Madrid SA of Alicante is planning to invest \$35 million in a new tourist complex. Construction should begin this summer, according to Jordanian businessman Qasim Irshaid, founder of Ben Madrid. Plans call for a 323,000-square-foot exhibition centre, a \$15.8 million hotel and a \$10 million health clinic.

Perhaps the most ambitious Arab-financed project in southern Spain lies on the Atlantic shores of the Iberian Peninsula, more exactly on the Bay of Cadiz. The plan, according to designer and promoter Miguel Oliver, includes three hotels, all to be built within six years, a 1,000-bed marina, a nautical club, 400 apartments and a boat repair and maintenance shop. In short, a complete new village involving a total \$58 million investment. The project, called Puerto Sherry, was inaugurated last 24 December and is due for completion toward the end of 1988.

The promoting company is the \$4.67 million capitalized Marina Puerto de Santa Maria SA of Cadiz with 50 per cent ownership and the balance held by Soditan, representing Spain's Instituto Nacional de Industria (INI), and Soprea, a subsidiary of Junta de Andalucia. The project will be managed by Sociedad Arabe-Espanola de Servicios (Aereservice), a division of Banco Arabe Espanol (Arababank) of Madrid.

The chairman of Marina Puerto de Santa Maria SA is Saudi merchant Sheikh Abdullah M. Baroom. The directors on the board include Sheikh Amin Jawa of the Saudi state-owned Petromin, as well as Daniel Camejo and Miguel Oliver. Pablo Oliver is Puerto Sherry's commercial director.

Direct Arab capital investment in Spanish companies rose to over \$50 million last year from only \$1.3 million in 1979. Most Arab money in Spain has gone into real estate on the Costa del Sol, particularly in the southern resort towns of Marbella and Puerto Banus where, it is estimated, Arab investment has topped \$600 million.

(Middle East report)

Housing Bank gets loan

AMMAN (Star) — Mr Zuhair Khoury the President of the Board of Directors of the Housing Bank stated that a long term \$25 million loan agreement will be concluded in the next two months between the Housing Bank and the US administration and Land Institutions in America. The loan which will be payable within a period of thirty years is to finance housing projects for low-income groups in Jordan, whose average income does not exceed JD 180 per month. The cost of the housing unit should not be more than JD 12,000 in order to be able to meet the housing needs of all categories of low-income groups.

Mr Zuhair added that a part of the loan will be used for urban development to help the poor groups of Jordanian society. Another part will be used to finance housing projects for the same groups but which will be executed by the land financial Jordanian institutions in the private sector.

The remainder of the loan will be utilised by the Housing Bank itself in accordance with its normal loan policy adopted via-a-vis the citizens. Mr Zuhair further added that the Bank will have to pay 10 per cent interest per annum.

The Housing Bank will, however, consult the Jordanian Government and the Central Bank before a final agreement is reached in order to study the best means to make the loans available to the poor groups with an interest rate not exceeding 8.5 per cent per annum.

Continued on page 8

IN BRIEF

Government prohibits imports

● AMMAN (Star) — The Council of Ministers decided to prohibit the importation of certain goods and commodities. The decision of prohibition included small washing machines, empty tins, macaroni unless they are not manufactured here, liquid and dry chemical detergents, natural yeast, vegetable oil, tobacco, cigarettes with the exception of the quota approved by the Council of Ministers, white and normal cement, matches, ready-made fodder, plastic materials for the television with the exception of those not manufactured locally, TV antennas, brushes and brooms similar to those manufactured locally, toilet paper, sanitary towels, juices with the exception of natural concentrates, gas ovens, school copybooks except those used for university lectures, transparent glass panes, emulsion paints, artificial flowers, and decoration plants except the nursery plants.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade will control the quality of production and prices and see that they are available in the local market in order to protect the consumer. The Ministry will adopt the present prices which will not be raised without the approval of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. The purpose of the Council of Ministers' decision is to protect local production against competition and to encourage local products.

Saudi fisheries company nets \$9.90 million

● DAMMAM (Opecna) — The Saudi Fisheries Company (SFC) netted \$9.90 million in profits last year, with its sales and revenues amounting to \$3.07 million.

According to the company's annual report, 10 per cent of the profits have been deposited as regular reserves.

The report says the company's total sales during the same year reached amounted to 27.82 million and on administration 2.88 million.

SFC's fish and shrimp production totalled 7,093 tonnes, and the company's board approved the purchase of two boats for shrimp fishing, each with three tonnes freezing capacity, in addition to another boat for transportation.

In 1984, the company also set up a store for spare parts in Jizan, the report adds.

UAE to improve trade ties with Europe

● DUBAI (Opecna) — A delegation from Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry arrived in Sweden on 1 September on the first leg of a tour aimed at strengthening trade co-operation and initiating joint ventures between the United Arab Emirates and Europe.

After visiting Sweden, the delegation will travel to Denmark, the Netherlands and other European countries.

Iraqi-Soviet committee signs agreement

● BAGHDAD (Opecna) — The Eighth Iraqi-Soviet committee on maritime navigation concluded its meeting in Moscow last month with the signing of a co-operation agreement on maritime transportation.

Under the accord, the Soviets will provide shipping facilities and training courses for Iraqi personnel.

The committee is affiliated to the Iraqi-Soviet economic and technical co-operation committee.

Contracts & Contacts

● TENDER NO. 101/85. Construction of the governorate building at Tafilah. Tender documents are available for JD 50. Closing date 16 September, 1985.

● TENDER NOS. 129, 130, 131, 132, 133 & 134 of 1985 for the supply of different types of vehicles for the Water Authority. The tenders are especially directed to the members of the World Bank, Switzerland and Taiwan. Tender documents for No. 129/85 are available for JD 100 and JD 50 for the other tenders. Closing date: 12 October, 1985.

● TENDER NO. 113/85. Installation of iron barricades and other works for the Jordanian Parliament. Tender documents are available for JD 20. Closing date: 18 September, 1985.

● TENDER NO. 106/85. Construction of a two-lane concrete road between Birin and A'louk. Tender documents are available for JD 125. Closing date: 9 October 1985.

General Procurement Notice
for Road Maintenance Equipment

The Ministry of Public Works is planning to advertise tenders for Road Maintenance Equipments — under the Multi-Mode Transport Project, which is financed by a loan (No. 2463 Jo) granted by the International Bank For Reconstruction And Development.

Invitations for tenders shall be advertised in due course later this year.

UNDERSECRETARY
Ministry of Public Works

AFSED grants loan for irrigation projects, seismology centres

AMMAN — A JD 8 million loan agreement was signed recently between the Arab Fund for Social and Economic Development (AFSED) and the Jordanian government. The loan is to finance part of a JD 10 million central valley irrigation project in the Jordan Valley.

The work involves conversion of the present open canal system into pressure pipes irrigation network. The conversion will cover an area of 54,000 dunums while an area of 8,000 dunums lying between the Wadi Al Rajib north of Dir Ala (Krima) and Dharrat Al Ramal near Al Masri intersection will be covered by the new network.

Dr Fahed Al-Natour, senior vice president at the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) told The Star that the main objective of this project is to save water as well as to have better efficiency in irrigation. He added that 75 per cent of the total cost of the project will be covered by the loan while the rest will be financed by the Jordanian government.

The JD eight million loan which is considered the first loan granted to the Jordan Valley Authority by the Arab Fund will be repaid over a period of 12 years with a five year grace period and six per cent interest.

"We are in the final stages of the pre-qualification of contractors, and tender documents are expected to be announced very soon," he said. International bidders will be encouraged to work on joint-ventures with local contractors or to engage local sub-contractors. Actual execution of the project will start in December this year to be completed in 3 1/2 years.

Dr Al-Natour pointed out that feasibility study for this project was conducted jointly by Dr. Al-Handasa, JVA's consultative engineer and an American company, Harza Engineering Company.

By Ibtisam Dababneh
Star Staff Writer

Eng. Al-Quasi said that the NRA has set up eight seismological stations with the required equipment in 1983 at the centres of Jordan. These stations are in Jerash, Burma, north of Ajloun, Al-Romana, Souma, Maeloubia near Al-Kafrin Dam, in Salt and Macour in west Madaba. Another six stations in Karak, Tafilah, Sultana near Hissa area, Al-Saan and Dhal were also set up by the NRA.

Eng. Al-Quasi said that the main aim of this project is to forecast well in advance of an earthquake so as to reduce the damages resulting from it apart from identifying areas prone to earthquakes and advising people not to build homes in those areas. For this purpose NRA will purchase a number of strong motion network equipment to be fixed at 20-30 stations to be set up by the NRA. He added that the NRA will also set up around 24 seismological stations in

areas that are prone to (or Epicentral areas) earthquakes such as the Jordan Valley and the crowded Amman.

These strong motion networks will provide the NRA with records and actual parameters for antiseismic designs. In addition to this, he said certain amount of the loan will also be used for staff training while the remainder will be allocated for the purchasing of scientific computer.

The balance amount of KD 240,000 will be utilized as follows: KD 30,000 will be given to the geological department at the Jordan University for purchasing of 8 mobile seismograph and accelerograph (Strong motion networks) with spare parts.

While around KD 100,000 will be given to government departments that are connected with land use and construction like the Ministry of Rural and Municipal Affairs, Ministry of Public Works, Water Authority, Amman Municipality, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan Valley Authority and the Geographical Centre. This amount Eng. Al-Quasi said is to meet the training expenses of engineers and other officials. Four engineers from the above mentioned departments will be trained in earthquake courses that will last for 18 months by foreign experts specialized in earthquake engineering.

Nearly KD 25,000 are assigned also as a financial support for training 4 officers from the Civil Defence department in short-term courses on how to act if an earthquake took place. And the rest KD 85,000 is reserved for contingencies. Eng. Al-Quasi concluded that the project is expected to be completed by 1987.

Egypt runs on debts, deficits
Egypt's deficits could be partly helped by \$9 billion deposits held by private sector

EGYPT'S ECONOMY, once governed by the annual flooding of the Nile River and the production of cotton, nowdays runs on debt and deficit, a trend exacerbated by the overflowing population — one million more mouths every 10 months.

Egypt's foreign debt, excluding its debt to the Soviet Union, is believed by Western experts to be in excess of \$31 billion. Trade between Egypt and the world in fiscal 1984 (July 1, 1984 - June 30, 1985) resulted in a trade deficit of \$7.6 billion; a 61 per cent increase over the \$4.7 billion trade deficit registered in 1983-1984. Last fiscal year's trade deficit is the balance of exports amounting to \$3.1 billion against \$10.7 billion worth of imports. The previous year, 1983-1984, Egypt's imports were \$8.4 billion and its exports \$3.7 billion. The balance of payments deficit, after two consecutive years of small surpluses, is currently estimated to be \$1.3 billion.

As for Egypt's national budget, it is built on the sinking foundation of deficit spending. The recently launched 1985-1986 budget forecasts a deficit

pared down to \$7 billion from \$7.7 billion in 1984-1985. The 9 per cent shaving is optimistically predicated on a 15 per cent increase in sovereign tax revenues. The budget for Egypt's new fiscal year projects a 9 per cent rise in spending — from \$26.3 billion last year to \$28.6 billion — and revenues boosted by 16 per cent — from \$18.6 billion in 1984-1985 to \$21.6 billion.

Since the completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1970, Egypt's 4 per cent of arable land no longer benefits from the Nile's fertilizing silt deposits. There is nothing, on the other hand, impeding human fertility. Ten years ago Egypt fed itself, today food accounts for half of Egypt's enormous import bill which last year climbed by 27 per cent to \$10.7 billion from \$8.4 billion in 1983-1984. The 48 million population is growing by 2.8 per cent a year. Meanwhile, farm output increases by only 2 per cent a year. In 1983, the annual income of the average Egyptian was \$700.

Egypt's two- to three million expatriate workers are returning home at the rate of about 400,000 a year — mostly from the Gulf where, clearly, the oil boom bubble has burst. The im-

Dollar gains, gold falls

LONDON (AP) — The US dollar continued to gain against most major hard currencies Wednesday, riding on technical factors and better-than-expected statistics of US unemployment. Dealers said, gold fell.

Dealers were divided on whether the dollar was on a long-term rise. Some dealers in Frankfurt attributed the surge that began Friday to technicalities, saying there was nothing fundamentally new to fuel a recovery.

Others said unemployment statistics to be released Friday would be important.

The US federal reserve said Tuesday its measure of the dollar against 10 other currencies climbed 1.41 per cent from Friday to 140.11, its highest since 19 July. The trade-weighted index hit an all-time high of 164.72 on 25 February.

In Tokyo, where trading ends before Europe's business day begins, the dollar rose to a closing 239.90 Yen from Tuesday's 238.85. Later, in London, it was quoted at 239.85 Yen.

Other dollar rates at mid-morning, compared with late Tuesday:

— 2.8560 West German Marks, up from 2.8540
— 2.3533 Swiss Francs, up from 2.3507
— 8.7150 French Francs, up from 8.7075
— 3.2250 Dutch Guilders, up from 3.2120
— 1,911.50 Italian Lire, up from 1,905.00
— 1.3701 Canadian Dollars, down from 1.3708

In London the British Pound gained against the US currency and was quoted at \$1.3707, compared with 1.3695 Tuesday.

The London gold bullion market was reported quiet. Dealers attributed gold's fall to the high dollar and the suspension of strike action in some South African gold mines, promising greater supply stability.

Gold opened in London at a bid price of \$325.30 a troy ounce, compared with late Tuesday's 328.00. At mid-morning Wednesday, the city's five major bullion dealers fixed a recommended price of \$325.00.

In Zurich, the bid price was \$323.90, down from 328.50 late Tuesday. In Hong Kong, gold fell 8.62 to close at a bid 324.84.

In New York Tuesday, gold fell 8.60 to close at 324.60.

Silver was quoted in London Wednesday at a bid price of \$6.04 a troy ounce, down from Tuesday's 6.16.

(Gold in Jordan)

AMMAN (Star) — Prices on Wednesday, 4 September, 1985 were as follows:

18 ct. JD 3.150 per gramme
21 ct. JD 3.650 per gramme
24 ct. JD 4.350 per gramme
Ounce... JD 135.000
Gold Starling... JD 30.000
(Central Bank)
Rashedi pound... JD 26.500
(Seven gramme)
Source: Yousif Abu Sara, Jewellers, Amman

Gold

LONDON (AP) — London late gold prices (in US dollars per troy ounce), Wednesday, 4 September, 1985:

London 319.70
Paris 320.04 fixed
Frankfurt 324.00 bid
Hong Kong 324.84 bid

Exchange rates in Dinar

	buy	sell
US dollar	.390	.392
Sterling pound	.535	.540
German mark	.136	.137
French franc	.044	.045
Swiss franc	.164	.166
Dutch guilder	.118	.121
Italian lira (1000)	.200	.207
Swedish krona	.044	.045
Saudi riyal	.106	.107
Kuwaiti dinar	1.280	1.285
UAE dirham	.105	.106
Egyptian pound	.255	.260
Syrian lira	.034	.035
Iraqi dinar	.364	.365
Omani riyal	1.112	1.114

Source: National Jordanian Exchange Company

Continued on page 15

Amman Stock Exchange

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET SHARES MOVEMENT FROM SATURDAY
31 AUGUST TO TUESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER

NAME OF COMPANY	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
BANKS			
ARAB MONETARY ESTB.	1.300	1.280	— .01
JORDAN SECURITIES	1.030	1.070	+ .003
JORDAN FINANCE HOUSE	.910	.950	+ .04
ISLAMIC INVESTMENT	1.030	1.030	
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	2.920	2.950	+ .01
JORDAN INVEST. & FINANCE	1.110	1.100	— .01
ISLAMIC BANK	2.610	2.580	— .01
JORDAN-KUWAIT	2.650	2.700	+ .01
HOUSING BANK	1.750	1.750	
NATIONAL FINANCIAL INV.	.860	.960	+ .01
ARAB BANK	160.000	184.000	+ .13
JORDAN GULF BANK	1.600	1.610	+ .006
FINANCE AND CREDIT	1.000	1.000	
NATIONAL WALLET	.730	.750	+ .02
JORDAN ARAB INVESTMENT	1.960	2.000	+ .02
JORDAN BANK	24.330	24.700	+ .001
PETRA BANK	3.030	3.500	+ .015
ARAB INVESTMENTS & DEVE.	.600	.580	— .03
INDUSTRIAL DEV. BANK	1.580	1.590	+ .006
INDUSTRY			
MACHINERY LEASING CO.	.680	.670	— .01
JORDAN DAIRY	1.130	1.140	+ .008
ARAB ALUMINUM	.620	.730	+ .01
ARAB MEDICINE MAN.	3.110	3.230	+ .003
DAR AL DAWA	1.480	1.500	+ .01
PAPER AND CARDBOARD	2.300	2.330	+ .01
JORDAN PHOSPHATES	2.820	2.830	+ .003
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	.590	.610	+ .03
JIMCO	.790	.830	+ .05
JORDAN REFINERIES	6.900	6.920	+ .002
NATIONAL STEEL	1.210	1.210	
PETROCHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	.780	.790	+ .01
CERAMICS INDUSTRIES	1.010	1.060	+ .004
JORDAN PIPES INDUSTRIES	1.140	1.190	+ .04
ALA DIN INDUSTRIES	.600	.680	+ .13
ARAB PAPER MANUFACTURERS	.280	.290	+ .03
INTERNATIONAL CHEMICALS	1.220	1.280	+ .04
JORDAN GLASS	.460	.460	
JORDAN LIME & BRICKS	.330	.330	
GENERAL MINING	1.650	1.670	+ .01
CATTLE & POULTRY	.480	.480	
JORDAN CIGARETTE & TOBACCO	13.000	13.000	
RAFIA FOR PLASTIC BAGS	.900	.900	
AL INTAGE AGRICULTURAL	2.100	2.100	
ORIENT FOR BATTERIES	.500	.450	— .01
JWICO	1.320	1.300	— .01
JORDAN FERTILISERS	4.070	4.000	— .02
INSURANCE			
JORDAN-FRENCH INSU.	2.950	3.000	+ .01
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	1.250	1.230	— .01
IZDIHAR INSURANCE	.950	1.000	+ .05
JORDAN INSURANCE	11.000	10.800	— .01
YARMOUK INSURANCE	.800	.800	
RIFCO INSURANCE	.830	.820	— .01
HOUSING			
DARCO HOUSING	.760	.760	
AKARCO	.660	.660	
GENERAL			
JORDAN ELECTRICITY CO.	1.550	1.550	
ARAB INT. HOTELS	.360	.360	
PETRA MACHINE RENTALS	.780	.780	
GARAGE OWNERS UNION	5.750	5.750	
NATIONAL MARITIME	.830	.830	

US trade surplus with Arab world up

Oil imports from Iraq, however, soared from \$3.6 million in 1984 to \$203.2 million in 1985

AS THE decline in US petroleum consumption levelled off toward the end of the January-June 1985 period, so too did the decline in US purchases of Arab oil. US imports from the Arab countries of the Middle East and North Africa fell 33.7 per cent from \$4.91 billion in the first six months of 1984 to \$3.26 billion in the first half of this year, according to statistics recently released by the US Department of Commerce in Washington, DC. However, during the first three months of this year, imports from the region had been down a full 42 per cent from the year before. The tapering off of the decline is largely the result of a jump in US oil imports, from 5.27 million barrels per day (b/d) in May to 5.93 million b/d in June, which may be attributed to a decrease in the average price per barrel at that time, from \$28.3 to \$28.07. Nonetheless, US oil imports over the entire January-June 1985 period were down 11.5 per cent as compared to the same time in 1984.

Arab imports of US goods, meanwhile, continued to drop at the fairly steady rate of 13.7 per cent, probably due to the combined factors of depressed revenues and the strength of the dollar. In the first half of 1985, the Arab world purchased \$5.58 billion in US goods and services, down from \$6.46 billion in the corresponding period in 1984. The Arab countries of North Africa as a group, however, actually increased their imports of US goods this year, albeit only

1.4 per cent, from \$2.02 billion in the first six months of 1984 to \$2.05 billion. As the decrease in Arab imports of US goods did not keep pace with the sharp reduction in US purchases of Arab oil, the trade gap widened considerably in favour of the US. At the end of the first six months of 1985 the US trade surplus with the Arab world stood at \$2.32 billion, up 49.5 per cent from the \$1.55 billion surplus accrued by the end of June 1984.

Saudi Arabia was still the US's largest Arab trading partner in the first half of 1985 despite a 67 per cent decrease in exports of oil to this country. These exports dropped from \$2.24 billion in January-June 1984 to \$743.8 million for the same period in 1985. Algeria, in fact, now supplies the amount of oil and gas that Saudi Arabia does. Despite declining oil revenues, the kingdom remained the Mideast's Number One importer of US goods and services, purchasing \$2.23 billion worth in the first six months of this year, although this was 20 per cent less than the \$2.78 billion bought over the same period last year. As a result of these disparities, the US trade surplus with Saudi Arabia more than doubled from \$547 million for the first half of 1984 to \$1.48 billion for the period ending June 1985.

Our second ranking Arab trading partner, Algeria, sold the US \$1.47 billion in oil and gas during the first half of this year, down 20 per cent from the same

period last year when exports stood at \$1.83 billion. Algerian imports of American goods, on the other hand, were up 15 per cent, from \$221.6 million in the first six months of 1984 to \$255.2 million in January-June 1985. This increase occurred without the benefit of the early June offer of one million tonnes of subsidized US wheat, the acceptance of which would boost imports still higher. As it is, the US trade deficit with the North African nation closed 24 per cent, from \$1.61 billion for the first half of 1984 to \$1.22 billion for the first six months of 1985.

Egypt was the Arab nation with the third largest volume of trade with the US during the first half of 1985. Although Egyptian imports of US goods declined slightly during the first quarter of this year compared with the first quarter of 1984, by the end of June those imports had experienced a marginal increase over the year before, rising from \$1.29 billion in January-June 1984 to \$1.31 billion for the corresponding period of 1985. As Egypt has been offered 500,000 tonnes of subsidized US wheat and 600,000 tonnes of subsidized US wheat flour which it is expected to issue tenders for in the near future, this figure is likely to increase further. US imports from Egypt, on the other hand, dropped 17 per cent, from \$81.4 million in the first six months of 1984 to \$67.6 million for the January-June 1985 period. The US trade surplus with Egypt stood virtually unchanged at \$1.24 billion for the

first half of 1985, up only 2 per cent from \$1.21 billion the year before.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) placed fourth in Arab trade with the US in spite of a 16 per cent increase in trade volume from the first half of 1984 to the first half of 1985. Both imports of US goods and exports of oil declined. The former fell 14.8 per cent from \$374.5 million for January-June 1984 to \$319.4 million for the comparable period in 1985. The latter (oil exports) dropped 16.3 per cent, from \$623.5 million to \$522.2 million. Thus, the US trade deficit with the UAE narrowed 18.6 per cent, from \$249 million for January-June 1984 to \$202.8 million for the corresponding period of 1985.

Iraq replaced Kuwait as the US's fifth largest Arab trading partner in the first half of 1985 due to rocketing imports of Iraqi oil. In the first six months of 1984, this country purchased only \$3.6 million worth of Iraqi oil; in the first half of 1985 this figure mounted to \$203.2 million. This last yearly total exceeds the annual total of Iraqi oil imported by the US in any year since the outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war in September 1980. Meanwhile, Iraqi imports of US goods and services fell 33.7 per cent from \$335.1 million in January-June 1984 to \$222.5 million in the comparable period this year. This served to virtually eliminate the trade gap, lowering the US trade surplus with Iraq from \$311.5 million in the first half of 1984 to a mere \$19.3 million for the first six months of this year.

The overall volume of US trade with displaced Kuwait tumbled 28 per cent in the first six months of 1985 vs. the first half of 1984, from \$485.1 million to \$349.5 million. This year, Kuwait exported only \$75.2 million worth of oil to this country compared to \$162.8 in the first half of 1984. Kuwaiti imports of US goods and services dropped too, from \$322.3 million in January-June 1984, down 15 per cent, to \$274.3 million in the same period this year. The fall in imports did not keep pace with the fall in exports, however, and thus the

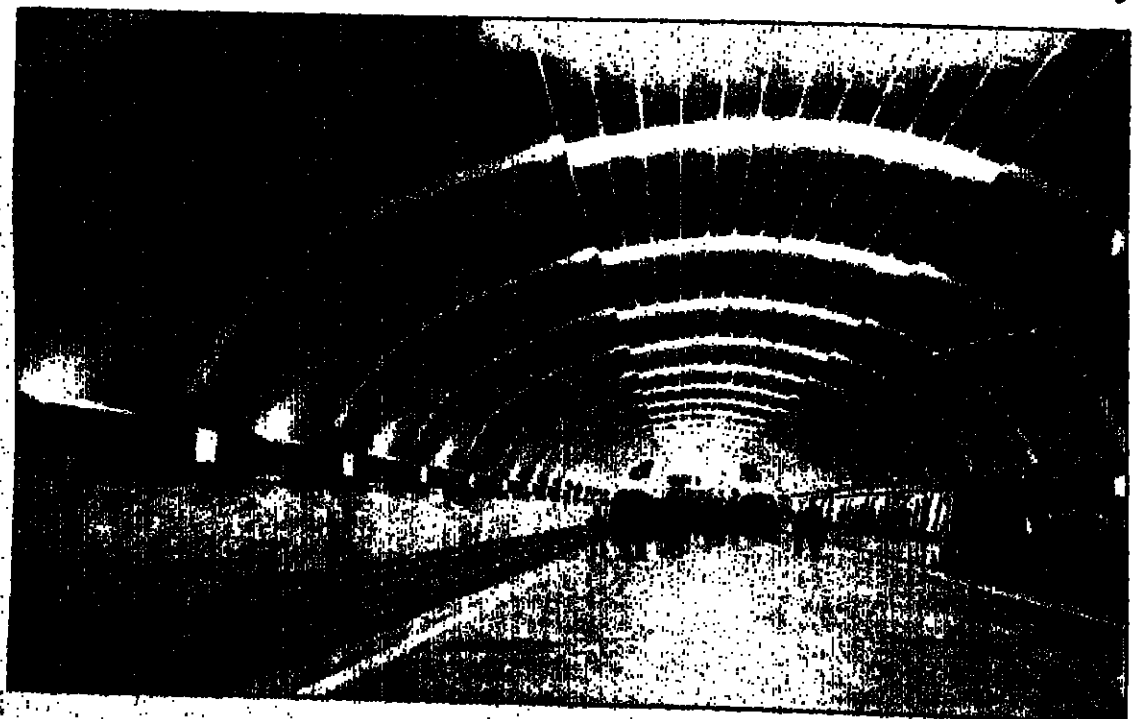
US's trade surplus with Kuwait widened 24.8 per cent, from \$159.5 million for the first six months of 1984 to \$199.1 million in 1985.

Israel enjoyed a volume of trade with the US in the first half of 1985 second only to Saudi Arabia's among countries of the Mideast. While US-Saudi Arab trade was on the decline, however, US-Israel trade was on the upswing. In the first half of 1985 overall volume increased 27 per cent to \$2.54 billion from \$2 billion for the same period the year before. As the provisions of the Free Trade Area (FTA) pact began to take effect, US imports of Israeli goods rose 18 per cent, from \$899.6 million in the first six months of 1984 to \$1.06 billion in January-June 1985. US exports to Israel climbed even higher, from \$1.1 billion in the first half of 1984 up 34 per cent to \$1.48 billion for the same period this year. Consequently, the US accumulated a trade surplus with Israel of \$412.6 million for January-June 1985, a dramatic 96.4 per cent increase over \$210 million in the corresponding period in 1984.

As US relations with Iraq warmed, US trade relations with Iran for the first half of 1985 declined 47 per cent from January-June 1984. Both exports to and imports from the Islamic Republic plummeted. The former fell 57 per cent, from \$111.2 million in the first six months of 1984 to \$47.8 in the same period this year. Imports from the US dropped 48.3 per cent, from \$255.9 million last year to \$131.1 million this year. Thus, the US trade deficit with Iran narrowed 27 per cent, from \$114.7 million for January-June 1984 to \$83.3 million for the same period this year.

Total US exports to the 19 countries of the Middle East and North Africa, including Iran and Israel, came to \$7.1 billion for the first half of 1985, down 8 per cent from \$7.7 billion for the corresponding period in 1984. US imports from the region fell even farther, registering \$4.46 billion for January-June 1985, a 26 per cent drop from the \$6 billion of a year ago. (MidEast report)

Romania constructs underground railway



ROMANIA which has celebrated its 41st anniversary of the socialist revolution on 23 August, 1985, is on a forward march in scientific, technological and construction fields.

The Bucharest underground railway is considered as a monumental construction because of the way it acts, its proportions and aesthetics as well as the complexity of the work necessitated by the difficult natural conditions of the Bucharest subsoil.

Among the several tens of underground railways built in the world, only seven countries built them according to autochthonous

concepts and technical means. One of these seven countries is Romania.

The Bucharest underground railway has thus also the value of an examination which it has passed with success. A success which belongs to the entire Romanian scientific, technical and economic thinking. Over 40 research and technological engineering institutes participated in the elaboration of the project and 45 industrial enterprises ensured its practical achievement.

The 25.1-km first main line has been commissioned. There

are 16 elegant stations and two depots. This distance is covered in 40 minutes. Every station has controller systems, radio communications and closed TV circuit, as well as other equipment guaranteeing the safety of the underground traffic.

Work is now going on on 19 kilometres of the second main line with 13 stations and a depot, which passes under Herestraia lake. Studies are also now under way for the 11.5-km third main line which will have nine stations and one depot.

Mideast briefs

• A UNIT of McDonnell Douglas Corp. received a \$153.5 million Air Force contract to provide technical services for 60 Saudi Arabian F-15 aircraft for two years. Also, General Dynamics Corp. was awarded Air Force contracts totaling \$16.9 million to provide training and support for Egypt's F-16 aircraft programme and to provide F-16 power system modifications for Belgium.

• EGYPT AND Turkey are planning to establish a joint venture bank headquartered in Istanbul. Contributing to the \$20 million start-up capital will be the Arab Investment Bank and Turkish Bank. Also, Tunisia's Ministry of Finance and the Arab African International Bank have agreed to set up a \$100 million capitalized offshore bank in Tunisia.

• FOLLOWING A 23 July meeting in Paris between French Minister of Economy and Finance Pierre Bérégovoy and Iranian Chargé d'Affaire in France Ali Reza Moir, Tehran asked for immediate repayment of a \$1 billion loan extended by the then-Shah of Iran to Eurodif for uranium enrichment. Tehran is also asking for an interest payment which should total an additional few hundred million dollars. The French Minister said he will appoint a special commission to this effect. The Iranian diplomat hinted that a resolution of that pending problem would be the "first step" in improving French-Iranian relations.

• JOINING THE ranks of commercial banks that have decided to close down by year-end or limit operations in Bahrain because of the economic slowdown are three US-based banks: Marine Midland Bank, First City National Bank of Houston and Texas Commerce Bank. They have all decided to recall their representatives. Nonetheless, four other financial institutions were issued licenses to open representative offices by the Bahrain Monetary Agency (BMA) this month. They are: Midland Bank Group International Trade Services Ltd., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Midland Bank PLC.; Yemen Bank for Reconstruction and Development (51% owned by the North Yemen Government); Italy's Monte dei Paschi di Siena; and Citicorp Investment Bank Ltd.

What's new

Walt Disney Software

THE WALT DISNEY Company has entered the software business with three educational software packages programmed by Sierra On-Line for the Apple II, Commodore C64, IBM PC/Pcjr and Radio Shack Colour Computer.

Mickey's Space Adventure uses an adventure game format to teach children about our Solar System.

Donald Duck's Playground promotes money-handling skills with an emphasis on change making. Winnie the Pooh in the Hundred Acre Wood develops mapping and reading skills.

Surge protector

COMPUTER POWER Solutions has introduced a six-plug surge protector called the Electra Guard System 18 that protects electronic devices from surges, spikes, transients, and overvoltages. It includes a 15-foot cord from wall socket to surge protector and a six-foot cord with a remote rocker switch.

Profile



CORONA PC-400 specifications

16 Bit 8088 Microprocessor
256 KB RAM expandable to 512 KB
640x400 Super High Resolution Graphics
14 Inch Non-Glare Amber Monitor
16x16 dot character font on screen
2 Floppy disk 360 Kbit each
10/20/30 MB Hard Disk built in
10 Function Keys and Numeric pad
Serial and parallel built in ports
4 Free expansion slots
20 MB cassette Tape Backup system
1000 Top Famous professional programmes
IBM Software & Hardware Compatible
LOTUS 1-2-3/DBASE III/AUTO CAD
Word Processing / MS-DOS/ CP/M 86/ PC NET

Bits and bytes

Knowing computers

STARTING THIS week, we will meet our readers who are interested in computer science. Here we will try our best to share with them our knowledge of computers.

The main purpose of this column is to introduce computers in a friendly, easily understood, direct manner that will help those who do not have a background in this field. We will try to put aside the natural fear of the unknown that many experience when they encounter and have to deal with computers.

Later columns will provide information to those who already have a general knowledge of computers and also attempt to inform our readers who do not have this knowledge.

Despite the varied jobs that computers perform, some people still don't recognize that a computer is just a machine. Granted, it is a machine that is very fast and rarely makes a mistake. But people often ignore the human factors that are involved. In the future we will explain the human role in using computers, i.e. computer operators, programmers, analysts, etc.

Wrong ideas about computers will be dealt with. Here we will attempt to correct impressions and encourage readers to learn more about computers, either from this column or from other sources.

A very interesting thing is knowing how to deal with friendly computers. Humans created this machine and are the ones who have to deal with it, i.e. programme it, maintain it, operate it so that we can utilize it to save time, effort and money.

Next week we will write about the early history of computers.

(Maha Mahadeen)

Egypt nowadays runs on debts and deficits

Continued from page 12

enough jobs to accommodate the influx of Egyptian workers returning from the Gulf. The question is, however, where will the several thousand Egyptians returning home from Libya, where as of 8 June they are forbidden to work, find employment? Forty per cent of Egypt's population is 15 years old or younger. Hence, the more pressing question is where will the millions of youths entering the job market each year find work? It would seem that if Egypt is to employ all those seeking work, its economy will have to come closer to the 8.1 per cent annual growth rate forecast in the five-year plan begun in July 1982 than the obtaining 5 per cent rate of growth.

In fiscal 1983, the Egyptian Government, with an eye to stimulating the economy and creating new jobs, granted private sector entrepreneurs a five-year tax holiday and public sector managers greater pricing and hiring freedom. Waghi Shindy, Egypt's then-Minister of Investment, a post no longer existence, said in support of the measures, "small is beautiful," elaborating that small private companies are likely to provide Egyptians with more jobs at better wages and salaries. Meanwhile, the responsibility of increasing employment opportunities by and large rests on the shoulders of Egypt's bureaucracy and inefficient public sector, said to account for 80 per cent of all industrial production. In 1983-1984, 36.6 of the 117 public sector firms reported a net aggregate loss of \$361 million.

While it is still too early to weigh the effects of the measures taken in fiscal 1983 on Egypt's investment in the country, the "investment" in Egypt since the institution of the "Open Door" policy in 1974 has yet to fulfil the largely optimistic expectations. In record 1983, foreign investment

in Egypt totaled about \$735 million. Direct private US investment in Egypt's oil sector and banking is estimated to be in the neighbourhood of \$1 billion. American funds privately invested in Egyptian agriculture and industry were reported in 1984 to total a paltry \$61 million.

In addition to the drop in remittances, contributing to last year's balance of payments deficit was the slump in oil export revenues due primarily to increased domestic consumption. Egypt produces on average 870,000 barrels a day (b/d), of which 420,000 b/d are for export. Oil exports — Egypt's second biggest hard currency earner and two-thirds the value of visible exports — fell from \$2.34 billion in 1983-1984 to about \$2 billion last year. Furthermore, last month's price cuts ranging from \$1.50 to \$2.00 a barrel on three varieties of Egyptian crude and effective retroactivity to 1 July, will slash net annual oil export earnings by \$200 million assuming the present rate of export is maintained. Based on proven reserves of 4.8 billion barrels, oil exports will continue to be a source of foreign currency for Egypt for only 10 more years at the current extraction rate of 19 million tons a year. Then again, Egypt's oil lifespan will undoubtedly be extended as four oil exploration agreements, stipulating the expenditure of \$132 million on property concessions in the Western Desert and Gulf of Suez region, were signed with US-companies last month.

In recent years, arms exports have surpassed Suez Canal tolls and tourism in hard currency earnings. Egypt's arms industry, kicked-off in the 1970s with the help of funds from oil-rich Arab neighbours, has been bringing in some \$1 billion a year. Egypt has exported more than \$1 billion worth of arms to Iraq alone since the outbreak of the Iran-Iraq war

in September 1980. In addition to selling Iraq Soviet-built T54 tanks from its strategic reserves, Cairo has sold Baghdad Egyptian-made ammunition and spare parts. Other countries ordering Egyptian arms are Sudan, Somalia, North Yemen and a number of African nations. Last November, Egypt even hosted an exhibition of locally-produced and assembled arms attended by 200 international companies. Among the 11 types of weapons and defence equipment displayed were: A local version of the Soviet-made SAM-7 equipped with radar, the Fahd armoured personnel carrier named after Saudi Arabia's monarch, the Franco-German ground support Alaphjet, French-designed Gazelle helicopters and Mirage-2000 jetfighters.

Receipts from the Suez Canal, which celebrated the tenth year of its reopening last 5 June, were, like most of the more traditional sources of foreign currency income, down in fiscal 1984. Suez Canal revenues, in spite of the 1 January, 1985, 3 per cent on-average-increase in tolls levied on ships passing through, fell from \$974 million in fiscal 1983 to \$900 million in the fiscal year ending 30 June, 1985. Last year's budget had counted on \$1 billion in Suez Canal receipts. Whereas formerly 70 per cent of total annual Suez Canal revenues were tolls levied on oil tankers, now only 35 per cent of the canal's income derives from tankers. Last year, following the 27 February, 1984 eruption of the "tanker war" in the Gulf, the canal's oil transporting traffic trickled down to 2.4 million b/d as compared with 8 million b/d the decade before. The 1985-1986 budget has scaled down projections for Suez Canal revenues to \$900 million in accordance with last fiscal year's earnings.

Tourism earned Egypt \$557 million in fiscal 1983 and was slated to bring in \$600 million last year. It is likely that this

goal was achieved given that in the January-June period, tourism and remittances together earned Egypt \$1 billion.

Western sources, among which is reported to be the International Monetary Fund (IMF), put Egypt's external debt in the area of \$31 billion — nearly double the figure quoted by Egyptian Government officials. Given the drop in remittances, exports and Suez Canal tolls, debt-servicing must have cost Egypt considerably more than 35 per cent of its hard currency earnings last year. It would have, in fact, eaten up all the hard currency collected for exported Egyptian goods. Egypt's debt to the US is \$8 billion, over \$4 billion of which is military. Washington has not so far acceded to Egyptian demands for a re-scheduling of its debt to the US. All in all, Egypt's creditors number about 30 nations. The now defunct Gulf Fund (Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Libya) is owed \$4 billion. It is not known whether Egypt is servicing this debt or its \$260 million economic and commercial debts to Moscow on schedule. Cairo is purportedly not servicing its \$1.2 billion military debt to the Soviet Union but rather negotiating with Moscow to re-schedule it.

Naturally, Egypt's credibility, suffering as a result of its mounting external debt, is being tested. Britain's Export Credit Guarantee Department (ECGD) recently demoted Egypt from a "C" rating to a "D", high-risk rating. Egypt, which has been negotiating a \$300 million - \$500 million standby credit facility with the IMF since April to apply to its balance of payments deficit, is at great pains to demonstrate publicly that it is capable of fulfilling its debt obligations. Following the publication of an IMF report in June, the contents of which are not for public disclosure but are believed to confirm the \$31 billion debt figure, Cairo announced last month that it would repay on time a \$202

million loan plus interest extended three years ago by a group of international banks. The loan, a two-year facility with a 12-month extension option, was arranged by Chase Manhattan Bank and involved United Bank of Commerce and Finance (UBCF), European Arab Bank, Arab African International Bank and United Gulf Bank.

In spite of its eagerness to prove its creditworthiness and set itself apart from the "Perus" of the debt-laden Third World, Egypt is likely to encounter great difficulty in squeezing out more money from the IMF or from anywhere else for that matter without imposing the kind of austerity measures that resulted in a rise in food prices, sparking the 1977 riots under former President Anwar as-Sadat. On 7 August, Egyptian Finance Minister Salahuddin al-Hamid and Central Bank Governor Ali Negm met with the IMF to discuss Egypt's foreign debt and general economic state of affairs. Peru, two weeks ago, in a disavowal of IMF guidelines for debt-strapped countries, announced that it would devote no more than 10 per cent of its yearly export income to debt servicing.

Future cutbacks at the behest of the IMF in Egypt's subsidy programme, frozen in its recent budget at 10 per cent of Government spending or \$2.8 billion, might just detonate the Muslim fundamentalist time-bomb temporarily defused by President Sadat's assassination on 6 October, 1981. While the IMF's answer to Egypt's economic woes is an austerity programme involving further increases in the heretofore subsidized prices of food and fuel, Muslim fundamentalists maintain that the implementation of Islamic law is the sole remedy for what appears to be a grave economic situation. One possibility, however, lies in the encouragement of the private sector, which officially holds more than \$9 billion in Egyptian banks.

A reconciliation attempt should be launched

By Salim

AFTER MORE than a month since the emergency Arab summit of Casablanca was held and following the inconclusive tour of US Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East Affairs Richard Murphy in the region and now that the almost week-long vacation of Al-Adha is over, a determined effort needs to be started to try to resolve inter-Arab differences.

The Casablanca Summit decided to set up special committees to mediate among certain Arab states to settle outstanding disputes. The committees have not so far been set up and no action has yet been taken to set the reconciliation effort into motion, although the mission should be viewed as very urgent and not be delayed any longer.

Under the circumstances which followed recent developments, the removal of inter-Arab differences which are in essence marginal and meaningless but nevertheless severely hamper common Arab action, should be given top priority by those entrusted with following up the resolutions of the Casablanca meeting. The reconciliation effort should be immediately launched for the following reasons:

Recent Middle East peace efforts, particularly the joint Jordan-PLO steps which won an unequivocal backing from the Arab majority in Casablanca, have apparently not been given the attention they deserve from the United States. The US administration is again vacillating and avoiding taking a firm stand towards what has been rightly described as the last chance for peace in the Middle East. The US inaction is attributed partly to the current division in the Arab camp. A united Arab front launching a serious attempt to force others to shoulder their responsibilities towards the cause of peace in the region could break the deadlock and prevent the maintenance of the no-peace-no-war state which has largely benefited Israel's expansionist schemes.

The continuation of the Iraq-Iran war is due in part to lack of unanimous Arab backing for Iraq. It is no longer a secret that Iraq has sometimes open support given to Iran by certain Arab states has hindered Iraq and other Arab countries' endeavours to achieve an honourable settlement to the bloody Gulf conflict. A common Arab understanding on the need to put an end to the dispute through negotiations can force the Iranian regime to give up its intransigent attitude.

The date of the regular Arab summit, due to convene in Saudi Arabia next November is approaching and it might be essential that all Arab states, especially those who unnecessarily boycotted the Casablanca summit, should be present. The projected reconciliation committees should work hard on this matter to ensure complete success for the next conference.

The Arab cause and the plight of Palestinians under increasingly merciless occupation cannot afford to await another prolonged period for a solution. The Arabs must cease to blame others for failure to achieve the just solution they have been seeking because nobody really cares unless they are made to do so through concrete Arab action and determined collective effort.

THE ISRAELI oppressive measures in the occupied West Bank, Middle East peace efforts, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war are the main highlights in the press this week.

The English language Qatari newspaper, The Gulf Times, denounces Israel's new arbitrary measures in the occupied Arab territories, saying that deportation and detention without trial which the occupation authorities have begun to apply are designed to facilitate Israel's annexation schemes.

The paper sees a link between Israel's arbitrary measures, especially the deportation of West Bank Palestinians, and its fierce opposition in the past three months to Arab peace moves, especially the Jordan-PLO peace initiative which has undermined Israel's intransigence and exposed its unwillingness to make peace.

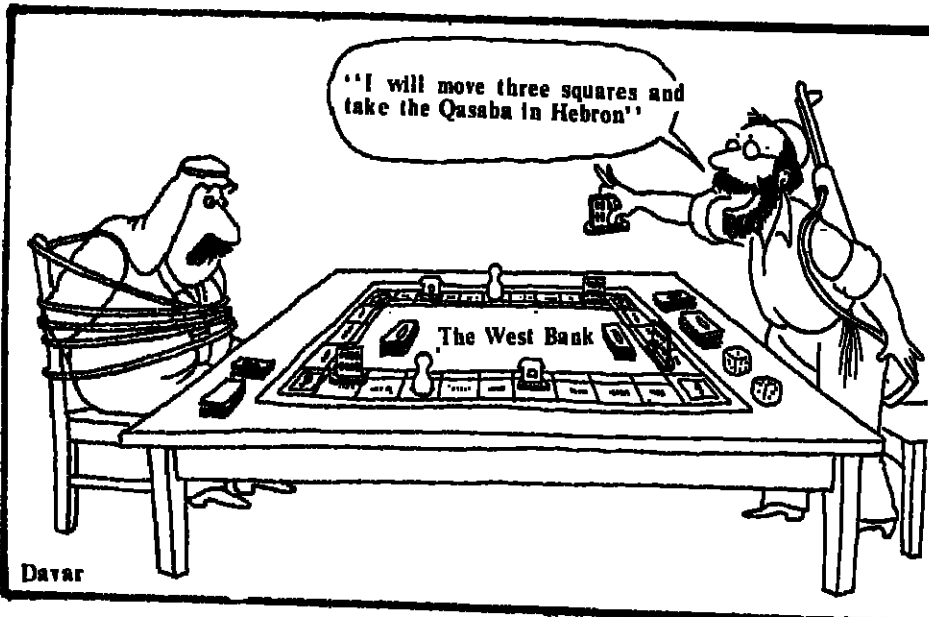
The paper concludes by urging Arab states to extend all possible help to the Palestinian people and the Palestine Liberation Organization to help them to cope with the new Israeli terror campaign.

Al-Siyassa, a Kuwaiti newspaper, expresses the view that the forthcoming summit meeting between President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev could provide an opportunity for movement towards Middle East peace. It calls on Arab states to seize this opportunity and try to achieve a peace settlement to the Middle East problem.

The Kuwaiti newspaper goes on to say that the opportunity is enhanced by the fact that President Reagan is now serving his second and last term and he is thus in a position to make the peace process ahead. It warns that after Reagan, a new US president may not be willing or able to contribute effectively to the peace-making process in the region.

The Kuwaiti paper also says that peace moves on the Arab side are now in the hands of Jordan and the PLO whose joint approach has been endorsed by the majority of Arab states at the Casablanca Summit.

In Abu Dhabi, the newspaper Al-Fajr says that the United States and Israel are



trying to get maximum gains from the proposed dialogue with a joint Jordan-PLO team and they are trying to do so because of persistent inter-Arab differences. It explains that while the Arab side wants the dialogue as a basis for broader peace talks which lead to the convening of an international peace conference to resolve the Palestinian question, the US administration and Israel are applying pressures to empty the dialogue of this content.

These pressures, the paper continues, include US intervention in the composition of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and Secretary of State George Shultz's condition that the dialogue must lead to direct negotiations with Israel and PLO recognition of Israel. This unreasonable shift in position, the paper adds, turns the issue into an unnecessary discussion of the security of Israel and its illegal colonies.

The paper concludes by asserting that if the dialogue is to lead to such direction, there is no need to embark on it.

On the killing of the Israeli diplomat in Cairo, the Kuwaiti newspaper Al-Watan

Middle East Press Review



writes that the incident shows that Egyptians in general continue to oppose Israeli presence in their capital. It adds that the operation may not be the last as long as conditions which prompted the killing continue to exist.

On Lebanon, the Qatari newspaper Al-Arab warns that Israel may be preparing for a new aggression on South Lebanon following the recent Katyusha attacks on its northern colonies. It accuses Israel and its local agents of being behind the deterioration of the security situation in Beirut and the recent spate of car-bomb explosions.

The paper stresses the need for settling all differences among Lebanon's nationalist forces and Palestinian groups so that all may be united in the face of the serious developments that could occur in the future as a result of continued plotting against reconciliation attempts.

The Kuwaiti daily Al-Siyassa warns Iran against taking any steps in retaliation against the destruction of Kharg oil terminal island by Iraqi planes. It says that Gulf

present, especially as the date of the next summit is only few weeks from now, Ad-Dustour remarks.

It explains that the committees should expedite action and exert serious effort if the next summit is to convene with Arab states attending it.

Al-Ra'i newspaper writes on Lebanon saying that the security situation deteriorates whenever there is an attempt to achieve reconciliation. It says that what has been going on in Lebanon since the Israeli withdrawal and the US evacuation is no longer acceptable on all national pan-Arab and humanitarian levels.

Israeli Press

Kol Haer writes that the demonstration of Jewish settlers of Gosh Emunim in the heart of Tulkarem town in the West Bank a week after the killing of an Israeli, must be considered provocative and an attack on the unarmed civilian Arab population. 'We denounce strongly killings perpetrated by both the Arabs and the Jews but we ask that Jewish extremists be deterred especially those of Rabbi Meir Kahane's group and Gosh Emunim. Provocation of Arab citizens in the WB by extremist Jew will inevitably cause reactions on the part of the Arabs,' says the paper.

Al-Hamishmar comments on security in the occupied territories. The paper says the killings which occurred recently led to the adoption of iron-fist policy. Consequently hundreds of Arabs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were detained and others were ordered to be put under house arrest. The iron-fist policy is a failure as it has failed in South Lebanon and previously in the occupied territories as this policy is not the proper one. Only comprehensive and just peace is solution which will bring stability and social and economic security in Israel as well as in the occupied territories, Al-Hamishmar says.

So Haderich writing about the sale of land in the West Bank by crooked means, says that the police investigation will give the answer to the questions relating to the fraudulent and forged manipulation in the sale of lands. A high ranking police officer said that serious forged operations will be unveiled. The Government Controller's report which remained concealed for two years, confirms that among seventy thousand dunums bought by the government there are fifty thousand or more bought by fraudulent means. 'We have to mention here that the cause of the lands purchase is only an implicit proof of the corruption prevalent here as a result of the continuous occupation of Arab lands,' the paper writes.

Commenting on the mission of Robert Murphy, Koteret Rasht writes that it is not yet known whether the American envoy will return to the region to start the talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation or whether his itinerary has ended or frozen for some time. Certain well-informed political sources in Jerusalem say that Mr Murphy will return to the region to pursue his meetings this month in the wake of the projected meeting in Vienna between US Secretary of State George Shultz and his Soviet counterpart. 'We can say, the paper writes, that Israel is responsible for the failure of the mission and consequently the failure of peace efforts exerted by the US in the Middle East.'

Jordanian Press

Ad-Dustour newspaper in Amman writes that after the elapse of almost a month since the Casablanca Summit was held, the question now is about the fate of the reconciliation committees which the summit decided to set up to clear the Arab efforts to allow the committees to meet and then begin their contacts with Arab capitals.

'These questions are made more important and persistent by the general feeling that a precious time is being wasted at

Oman and the Soviet Indian ocean strategy

By Jacques Baumgartner

IN HISTORY, the Portuguese were not only courageous seamen and discoverers, but they were also always excellent strategists. The coasts and islands which they used on their way round Africa to India in the 15th century are today areas which the super-powers strive to master. It is no coincidence in this respect that since the middle of the seventies the lands which have fallen under Soviet influence have been former Portuguese colonies: the Cape Verde Islands, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, Angola and Mozambique.

In 1498, when Vasco da Gama rounded the Cape of Good Hope and anchored off the island of Mozambique, he was astonished to find that it was not black Africans that he found there but Arabs, subjects of the king of Kilwa, who was a prince of the Omani al-Mandhry dynasty.

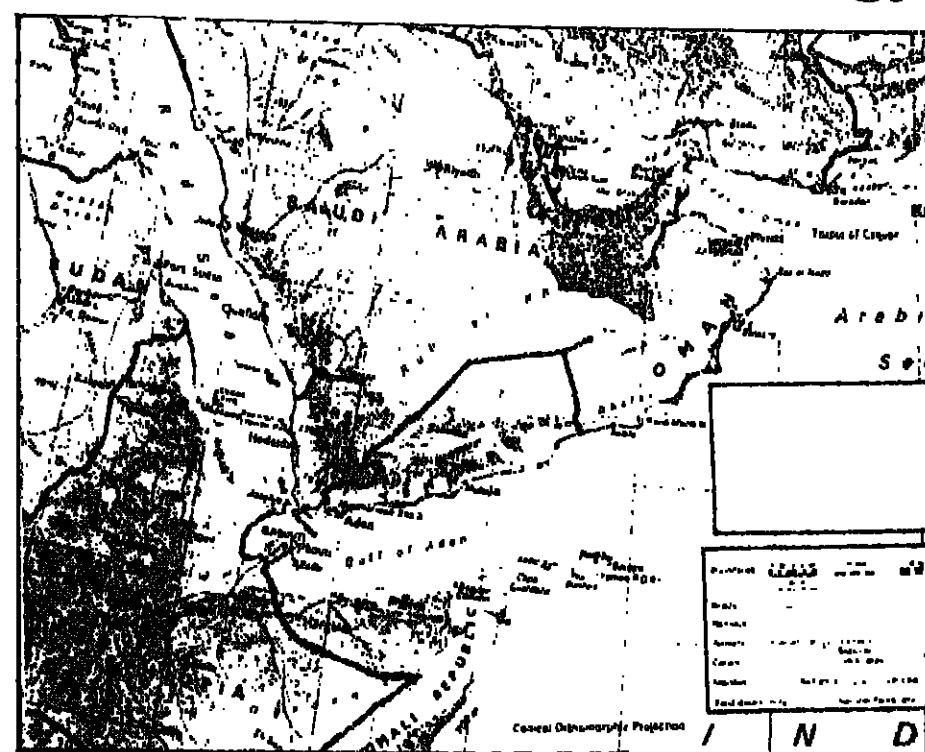
On his way north-east to India, Vasco da Gama called at Mombasa, in present-day Kenya, and then at Malindi, where he took on board an Omani helmsman, Ahmed ibn Majid. This was the man who took the Portuguese on their final lap to the Indian port of Calicut.

The Portuguese were mostly concerned with trade. But along the routes their ships had to take along the East African and South Arabian coasts they built a fair number of fortresses, and these were always in places of lasting strategic value.

At the entrance to the Red Sea, for example, the Portuguese fortified the island of Socatra. Today, this belongs to the state of South Yemen, and it has become an important Soviet base — of such secrecy that even the South Yemenis to whom it belongs are not allowed to go there. The Portuguese also fortified the Omani island of Masira, which today is used by the United States. To the south, the Americans are installed in the British island of Diego Garcia, which was also a base for Portuguese seafarers five hundred years ago. The reason of its friendship treaty with India, the Soviet Union can today send its warships to Indian ports, among them the old Portuguese settlement of Calicut at the extreme southern tip of the continent.

Today, the entrance to the Gulf is guarded by the Omanis. Here too, on the peninsula of Musandam, the Portuguese once had a fort. The American presence in Oman is hardly apparent, which is to say that it is conducted with great discretion. But the treaty between the two countries says that in the event of a crisis in the region of the Arabian peninsula a series of bases in Oman will be automatically available to the Americans.

From Afghanistan, the Arabian oilfields are only twenty minutes away for Soviet bombers. With this in mind, the Omanis



have recently completed a military airfield at Khasab on the Musandam peninsula. From here Omani fighters can be over the Straits of Hormuz in five minutes, and it is through this waterway that tankers bear 60 per cent of the oil destined for Western Europe and Japan. The Omanis need a mere ten minutes to be over Iran — which is important in the light of repeated threats by the Tehran government to close the Straits of Hormuz.

After last April's manoeuvres, military observers attested that the Omani army — comprising 24,000 men, mainly trained and officered by British instructors — has now reached NATO norms. Oman is today — as it was at the time of the first Portuguese seafarers — a strategic cornerstone, but it intends to stand on its own feet. This is why Sultan Qaboos wants the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) grouping Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Oman — to lay emphasis on military co-operation over and above the economic sphere. This, believe the Omanis, is particularly important at the moment in view of the continuing war between Iraq and Iran. Oman wants to be in a position, with its natural allies in the region, to defend itself, before it calls for help from the Americans, because it believes that the entry of one super-power would automatically bring the other into any conflict.

The value given to Oman by the other super-power, the Soviet Union, can to

some extent be surmised from a commentary in the latest issue of the East German political monthly, Horizont. Here it is stated that Oman has 'considerable power'. But... 'the extent to which Oman can really become a modern state depends to a large degree on the extent to which it can free itself from the dangerous position of being forced to be a military guard in the region on behalf of another'. And: 'It is well known that in 1979 the role of guardian of the Gulf led to the fall of the Shah's regime in Iran'.

Of course, for the Soviets, what goes for Oman's Marxist neighbour, South Yemen, which is their guardian of the southern end of the Red Sea, is not valid for Oman in its role of defender of the Straits of Hormuz. Is there a hint in this article from the East German monthly that there is soon to be a return to an old Soviet preoccupation: the destruction of Oman as a viable Western ally? Already in the sixties and seventies, an attempt was made to 'liberate' Oman by means of a rebellion in the southern province of Dhofar. This was armed and supplied from across the border in South Yemen, and at that time the Shah of Iran was only too ready to come to the help of the beleaguered sultanate. Now that the Shah's regime no longer exists, there may be policy-makers in the Kremlin who believe that the time is ripe for another try.

Swiss press report

Nobel prize for Asia?

By Mary G.F. Bitterman

HONOLULU, Hawaii — The Nobel Prize for literature is the most coveted literary award in the world. Every year writers and those seriously interested in literature look forward to its announcement with great eagerness.

It honours the most distinguished writers and promotes renewed discussion of their work. In this regard, the Nobel Prize for literature performs a vital function in the world of letters. Not everyone, understandably enough, will concur in some of the judgements made by the Nobel jury in the past.

The critical issue to bear in mind, however, is that it is a literary event of the highest importance and its prestige and validity need to be safeguarded and promoted. When seen against this background, it strikes one as rather odd that of the 81 winners of the Nobel Prize for literature, only two have been Asians — Tagore and Kawabata.

This is all the more surprising in view of the fact that in the field of cinema, for example, Asian filmmakers like Yasujiro Ozu, Akira Kurosawa, Kenji Mizoguchi, Mikio Naruse, Shohei Imamura, and Nagisa Oshima, Satyajit Ray and Minari Sen have held their own with the leading filmmakers of the world and car-

ried away the most cherished awards at international film festivals.

The Nobel Prize is annually awarded in physics, chemistry, physiology and medicine, literature, economics and peace.

In the fields of the natural sciences and economics, the choice of winners, though complicated due to the abundance of talent and research available, is made easier by the fact that these fields operate within a recognisable discourse.

The scientists know each other's work, and there are no vexing problems of language and culture.

The Nobel Prize for Peace is awarded to a distinguished person who has contributed to world peace and humanitarian causes. Given the reach of modern mass media, such persons attain great visibility.

In the case of literature, however, the situation is far more complex. Literature is language-specific and culture-specific. In the absence of a good and effective programme of international literary translation, identifying the best talent is extremely difficult and Asian writers are at a distinct disadvantage.

Earlier reference was made to films. Film as an art form was introduced to

Asia in comparatively recent times from the West. Many Asian countries had vigorous and rich literary traditions while Western countries were in the dark ages.

The next best thing to reading a work of literature in the original is to read a competent translation. Unfortunately, in the case of Asian literature, many outstanding contemporary works are never translated into other languages.

A way out of this troubling situation — though by no means an ideal way — would be to have two Nobel Prizes for Literature, one for the East and a second for the West.

Such a course of action, even for a limited period, might usher in a greater sense of equality while maintaining the high literary standards which, by and large, the Nobel jury has so far maintained.

The initial reaction from some quarters to this development might be to look down on the prize for the East as inferior to that of the West. As the works of authors from Asia who have been so honoured are translated into English, however, this suspicion will naturally recede. So what is required urgently is to examine the feasibility of having two Nobel Prizes for Literature and having a distinguished and rotating panel of Asian scholars and writers to help in this process.

Mary G.F. Bitterman is director of the East-West Centre for culture and communications in Hawaii.

Every Week



By Dr. Nabil El-Sharif

Arabic poetry — A new experiment

THIS WEEK, I am going to take time off from politics and social issues, and talk instead, about a new and daring experiment in Arabic literature especially for the interest of non-Jordanians who are eager to know something about our local artistic and cultural achievements.

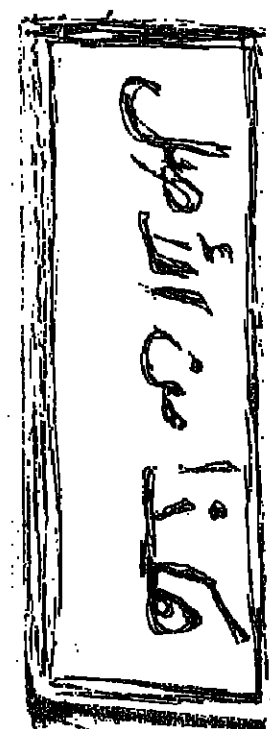
A new volume of poetry has just been published by an established Jordanian poet, Mazen Shadid. In this volume which is titled 'Thus Ersan talked about the Gazelle', Shadid embarks on new grounds in modern Arabic poetry.

Because Shadid chose the prose poem as his medium of expression in this volume, one can easily predict that our poet's way to Arab readers' hearts and minds is not going to be as smooth as he would like to be. The prose poem is still considered an alien form of artistic expression in Arabic, since Arabic poetry, more than any other world poetry, has made quite an issue of adhering to certain rigid metrics and rhythm. Many attempts to modernize Arabic poetry have been met by strong popular and critical protests. But this kind of inflexibility cannot go on for ever, and it probably takes somebody like Mazen Shadid to give modernization in Arabic poetry a new push.

More than any other poetic format, the prose form requires the poet to be exceptionally perceptive and extremely sensitive and 'choosy' with his language. And Mazen Shadid is just that. And it emerges, at the outset, that Ersan the 'hero' of Shadid's volume, is the Arab individual who experiences a depressing state of mind, of being an outcast and, even an outlaw, in his own Arab world. But Ersan is also the lover who is in constant search for his love (Palestine) who has been taken away from him by force.

Ersan who is in search of the Gazelle is also the peace-loving individual who is constantly driven to the brink of madness by antagonistic powers and forced to fight back to preserve his honour and sanity. Shadid says: 'Ersan is a young kid who is two lakes, twenty trees and several capitals old. A dark young kid whose forehead is a host of bracelets. His eyes are like two oases of palm trees, and his eyelashes were just like spikes of wheat.' Ersan is the embodiment of the spirit of the new Arab generation of young people, who are born with a natural and highly pronounced aspiration to live their life to the fullest with happiness and optimism, but they are immediately made to realize that the world is not as rosy and serene as they would like to be. A spontaneous tension soon arises between what Ersan (the Arab young man) would like the world to be, and what the world actually is. The gazelle of Ersan (The land, the mother, the vision, the dream) is taken captive, and all Ersan can do is talk about his gazelle, and search for her in the four corners of the earth.

The pressures of reality keep on encroaching upon Ersan's will to live, and, finally, when everything else fails him, Ersan, like Eugene O'Neill's 'Hairy Ape', decides to leave human society behind, and moves to live in the deserts and forests where 'the bear is bear and the ape is ape.'





This beautiful drawing of a warrior displaying his arms is by Ayman Abdulkarim. Abdulkarim is in the 2nd preparatory class at the Amman B/P school. Thank you Abdulkarim and we look forward for more pictures.

The Lion and the Fox

By Zaki Qurban

ONCE UPON a time, the lion was the King of all animals in the forest and all the other animals who had any problem came to the lion for solutions. Therefore, the lion was regarded as the strongest and the wisest in the forest.

One day, the fox decided to travel for some time. He did not know what to do with his two young kids since he could not travel with them. For several days, the fox thought over what he could do for the kids before he left them. Then he decided to consult the lion. When the fox told the lion about the problem, the latter readily agreed to take custody of the kids. But the lion told the fox that he could only protect the baby foxes from dangers that come from the ground. As for the skies,

the lion said he had no power. The fox agreed to this condition and left.

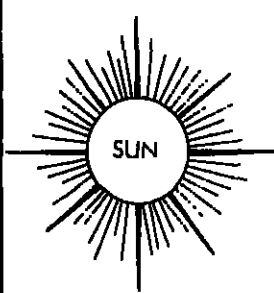
The lion did all he could to take very good care of the fox's kids. He did not allow them to go out alone. Whenever the lion moved out the two baby foxes rode on his back to the envy of the other animals. And soon there was hatred for the foxes. Some of the animals planned to kill the baby foxes, but whenever they made the attempt they found the lion too tough to beat. So, all the attempts that were made failed.

But the foxes were vulnerable after all. One day, when the lion was not watching, a large eagle descended from the skies and made towards the place where the young foxes were playing. In a swift movement, the eagle grabbed the two animals with

its giant claws and lifted them into the skies. There was confusion and before the lion realised, the eagle was without reach. None of the animals around could fly and even if there was any of them was not as strong as the eagle. So, the animals watched helplessly as the eagle tore apart the foxes on top of a tall tree.

A few days after the incident, the fox returned from his journey. He went straight to the lion to demand his kids. When he was told what had happened, the fox became so furious and started accusing the lion of breach of contract. But the lion was calm and reminded the fox the terms he gave him before he (the lion) accepted the young foxes. The fox remembered what the lion had told him earlier that he had no power in the skies. So the fox left with sorrows and went to mourn its kids.

ODDITIES



Why a summer day is longer than a winter day?

A SUMMER DAY is longer than a winter day because the sun is longer above the horizon in summer than in winter. Besides spinning on its axis, the earth also circles round the sun once a year. The axis on which the earth spins is neither pointing at the sun nor upright with respect to the sun, but is inclined or tilted at an angle of sixty-six and a half degrees. The equator is the imaginary line which divides our world (the spherical earth) into two perfectly equal and opposite halves called hemispheres (half-spheres, heni being Greek for half). During summer, the earth spins with its axis tilted towards the sun and this causes the sun to be longer above the horizon and to appear to describe a bigger circle in the heavens. When it is summer in one hemisphere, it is winter in the other. June 21st is midsummer day and the time of greatest tilt towards the sun for the inhabitants of the northern hemisphere. On this day the sun in Britain is over twice as long above the horizon as on December 21st, and at all places within the arctic circle there is daylight during the whole twenty-four hours. June 21st is midwinter day in the southern hemisphere, which is then most tilted away from the sun, and where there is as much night and darkness as there is day in the northern hemisphere. On December 21st the positions are exactly reversed.

CALENDAR

Exhibitions

The Royal Cultural Centre presents an exhibition of paintings by Ayyad El-Nimer. Continues until Saturday 7 September.

On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the beginning of the Iran/Iraq war, the Iraqi Embassy in co-operation with the RCC, presents 'The Leader and the Battle', a photographic exhibition.

Films

The French Cultural Centre presents 'Traffic', a 1971 film starring Jacques Tati and Maria Kimberley. Thursday 5 September at 7.45 pm. 'Tendre Poulet' a 1978 film starring Philippe Noiret and Annie Girardot. Saturday 7 September at 7.45.

The American Centre presents 'Tender Mercies' (91 mins), directed by Bruce Beresford and starring Robert Duvall and Tess Harper. Thursday 5 September at 7.00 pm. Wednesday 11 September at 7.00 pm. 'Breaking Away' (99 mins). Monday 9 September at 7.00 pm.

Video

The British Council presents a 10 part series 'The Computer Programme' which is designed to create a greater awareness of what microcomputers are and the impact they have. Pts 1 & 2, Monday 9 September at 6.30 pm. Pts 3 & 4, Tuesday 10 September at 6.30 pm.

Romania calling...

San Rock hotel was very busy last Tuesday with the Romanian Cultural Week which is now underway at the hotel with the co-operation of the Ministry of Tourism, the Romanian Embassy in Jordan and the management of the hotel.

The cultural week which was opened by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad Ibn Talal in the presence of Minister of Information Abdullah Al-Khatib and Romanian ambassador to Jordan Andrei Cervencic, will last until 9 September. Then Prince Muhammad toured the different sections of an exhibition which includes products of several traditional Romanian industries such as clothes, furniture, crystal, textiles and household accessories.

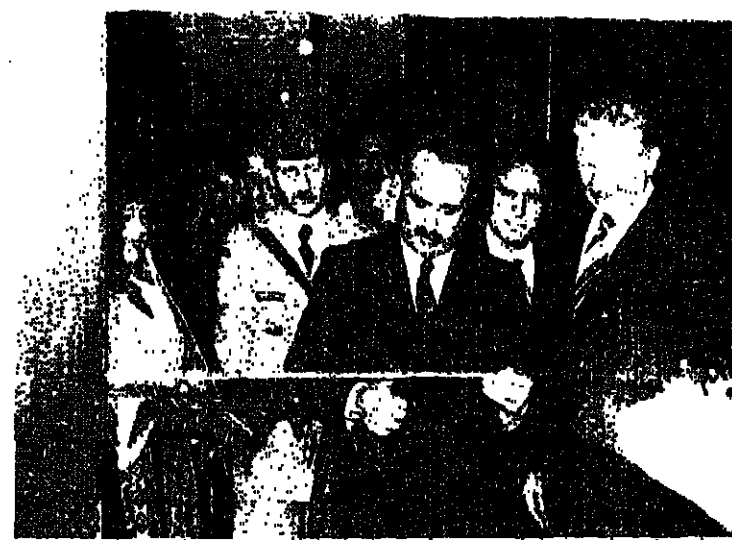
Mr Cervencic then presented a gift to His Royal Highness and the well-known Aouri group performed a variety of Romanian folkloric dances, while noted Romanian singer Deslina Apostol, accompanied by violinist George Toader, introduced guests to some of her country's charming songs.

The numerous Arab and foreign diplomats and Jordanian businesspeople in attendance at the opening also had the pleasure of sampling a number of Romanian gastronomic delights.

Many of Amman's residents have been on the move for the last few weeks — perhaps looking for the ideal climate. Connie Link and daughter Christie made a flying visit to the States whilst husband Bob and baby son Andrew held the fort here in Amman.

Meg and Akram Abu Hamdan with sons Shabbir and Lawrence are about to leave for a vacation in England, while Corrine and Mount Strall returned from the UK and promptly moved into a new house, eldest son, Omar is enjoying the garden, baby, Timor hasn't made any comments so far on the new abode.

Lots of Ammanis flocked to Cyprus beaches for the Eid, amongst the sun seekers or was it sea breeze? were Subair and



His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad cuts the ribbon for Romanian Cultural Week

Mustapha Misdadi as well as Samia and Hani Danel, Bachelors, Tony Halaby and Rafic Hamarneh, rumour has it, will seek the sun in other places next year.

Ghany and Abdullah Toukan with children Ali and Tarek have also been abroad, this time to Boston.

And then there are those locals are so fond of Amman that they refused a trip to China during the Eid.

Friends of Archaeology

IT'S A SHORT, but sweet, trip to Salt for the Friends this month. Committee Chairman Raouf Abujaber will be leading a visit to the Ayoublid Castle, the Abujaber home — the oldest and largest house in Salt — and the newly discovered Byzantine ruins in Wadi Salt. Date for the trip is Friday, 13 September with an 8.30 start from the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre. It will be an early finishing day but there are lovely picnic areas along the way for those interested.

Lectures

There are two lectures coming up this month. David McCree will present slides and a discussion on 'The Work of ACOR, past, present and future' at the American Centre, on Wednesday 13 September at 6.00 pm. (Note the location).

On Sunday 22 September at 6.30 pm, Dr Vassilis Sakellariakis, Professor of Archaeology at the University of Athens, will lecture on 'A Human Sacrifice in Minoan Crete'. This one is at the Department of Antiquities Registration Centre.

By Henry Arnold

Intimate Starcasts

Week commencing 3th September, 1985

CAPRICORN — December 21st to January 19th

All the indications are that there will be a surprise outing during this week, resulting in a reunion with a dear one whom you have not seen for quite a long time. Where your working life is concerned, you will find that your trump card is your ability to keep friendly with all types, and this should be more than helpful to you this week. An elderly relative could attempt to influence you to become involved with a family dispute, but you should stay neutral.

AQUARIUS — January 20th to February 18th

You could be faced with a decision to make in your personal life, and it could be much better for you to use your own judgment, and not seek the advice of a relative. Where your working life is concerned, things should brighten up considerably, and a colleague at business could make a rather interesting suggestion to you, which would be very well worth your serious consideration. Try to get wise to the ideas of those around you.

PISCES — February 19th to March 20th

You will find that some quick action is necessary during this coming week or you could lose some ground in a personal matter. You will be fairly mobile this week, and should find that the tension you expected in a romance does not develop after all. You could find yourself combining business with pleasure at the weekend, whilst entertaining a rather influential person, so don't count the cost, for it should be to your benefit.

ARIES — March 21st to April 20th

Watch out for some difficulty where a loved one is concerned, for you will need all your patience. At work, a superior could show their appreciation of you and of the way you have reacted on their behalf recently, and you should feel very pleased with yourself. If a quarrel flares up with your romantic partner, you would be very well advised to heed the advice given to you by an older person, for their experience is valuable.

TAURUS — April 21st to May 20th

You should try to remember that jealousy is a bad foe — relax and show a little more trust. Where romance is concerned, you should follow your own feelings, rather than be guided by a member of your circle. You could make an important choice of a new associate, and will find them both helpful and sociable. Much easier progress generally should be made now, and financial goals should be coming your way soon, together with bright changes for the better.

GEMINI — May 21st to June 20th

This appears to be a very good week for you to take a small gamble, and also for getting away from the usual routine. You should come to no harm, and thoroughly enjoy yourself. Around mid-week, you could be asked to give a little extra time at work to help out in a rush. Do this willingly, and your help will not be forgotten. Also, a close one could now prove their genuine-ness to you, and you will realise that any doubts you may have had will prove to be groundless.

CANCER — June 21st to July 21st

You could meet up with some competition in the romantic field some time during this week, but you should be in top form and can afford to be optimistic. A little uncertainty in the home atmosphere could cause you a little strain, but you would be very well advised to show patience and understanding. The indications are that you could patch up a slight dispute with a very close friend at the weekend, and in consequence, feel much happier.

LEO — July 22nd to August 21st

During the coming week, you could be making a break with someone who has been more than a little troublesome of late, and although this may worry you at first, you should realise that it is for the best. Towards the end of the week, you should be able to tackle just about everything that comes your way. A little extra understanding may be called for with an elderly relative, who may be irritating at times.

VIRGO — August 22nd to September 21st

You would be well advised to keep your own counsel in affairs of the heart during this coming week, for you could very easily say the wrong thing without meaning to. Plans that you have for weekend recreation will need a little adjustment to include another person. You should find that most people around you are very willing to help you launch a new enterprise, which has every indication of being very successful. (Workwise, this is an encouraging week).

LIBRA — September 22nd to October 22nd

There should be an excellent chance to further your aims this coming week, but try not to act impulsively. A change of scenery seems indicated, and encouraging romantic trends will give you a very bright outlook on life. Where social affairs are concerned, this should be an outstanding week for you, but some patience and tact may be needed at home, due to a relative's stubbornness. At the weekend, a surprise visitor to your home will be more than delighted to see you.

SCORPIO — October 23rd to November 21st

This week, the accent will be upon the domestic circle, with a warm welcome to a new member. You should seek to reach a better understanding with a loved one, but at the same time, beware of making impulsive promises, which you know you may not be able to fulfill. Try to avoid wasting any energy without losing any of your enthusiasm, and remember that you cannot handle everything alone. You will find that opportunity could come knocking at your door.

SAGITTARIUS — November 22nd to December 21st

Tact should be your key word for this week, with most people around you, and you should find that you get on very much better this way. This should prove to be a very prosperous week, and romantic attachments are in a very good light, so take the plunge and don't hesitate. Competition may be very keen during this week, but all the indications are that your luck is in, and you should have very little to worry about. You will find that depression just does not exist this week.



All Things Considered

Joyce Abu Jassar

Support

OUR MOTHER cat had given birth to five fat healthy kittens and one poor thin little offspring. When the others nursed from their mother, this small grey kitten was pushed to the corner of the box and left in the cold without nourishment. If this action had continued the little grey kitten would have perished. However, my daughter noticed what was happening and resolved to do something about it.

She wrapped little 'Grey' in some old rags to keep her warm and when the mother cat came to nurse the kittens, she saw that Grey got her share of the milk. When Grey opened her eyes and grew some teeth my daughter gave her extra milk in a dish and bits of food. Grey survived and became an adult although she was still noticeably smaller than her brothers and sisters.

Eventually, as all female cats do, Grey became pregnant. She then decided that the garden must be entirely for herself and her coming brood so in three days she proceeded to do battle with the dozen other felines that called our yard their home. She chased them all away.

In the following four years she reigned as supreme commander of her territory, only allowing such cats as she deemed suitable into her garden and for only limited amounts of time. The yard remained for her and her family until she took the decision to relocate to another post. But by then she had certainly demonstrated that she was capable of handling herself. We knew she would survive wherever she went.

What reminded me of this little cat was a report on heart attack patients that I recently read. Researchers at the University of Southern California's School of Social Work studied 114 patients, each of whom had suffered one heart attack. Many different facets of the patients' social and psychological lives were studied during hospitalization, six months later, and a year afterwards. This is what they found.

"The two most significant factors in recovery were found to be the patient's own sense of personal control, and a social network perceived by him or her as being supportive. Interestingly it was found that success of recovery was neither dependent on the severity of the heart attack, nor were stressful events preceding the attack related to the results. The social support of the patient appeared to be more beneficial in long-term recovery rather than during hospitalization." The study concluded that "efforts to enhance patients' social support and sense of personal control could significantly aid their recovery."

Knowing that she had support, someone was behind her, someone cared what happened to her, had helped the little cat, Grey, to survive and grow to have a strong personality. And knowing that there are people behind them, that there are people who care what happens to them, helps the person who has suffered a heart attack after he or she gets out of the hospital environment.

Breakfast in
SINGAPORE

Lunch in
VIENNA

or Dinner in
NEW YORK

What a great choice...
Yes... why not... give us a call
and we will take you in royal
comfort on one of the big ship Boeing 747's
or our luxurious Tristars to 38
cities around the globe, with
more than 100 flights a week,

so come... fly Alia...
you know you're among friends

For more information please contact Alia offices or your local agent.

Alia



Alia
Alia: The Royal Jordanian Airline

entertainment



Your TV guide

Channel 6
programmes from
September 7 to 13

Saturday 7 September

8:30 VIETNAM, episode 22. The Unsung Soldiers (1971). The war in Vietnam meant that over 2.8 million Americans had to adjust to the abrupt transition from the jungle to main street, America. Many of them were alienated, many suffering from drug-addiction, and thousands more were crippled. Despite a budget of \$17 billion a year, there were criticisms that the Veterans Administration could not cope, and 2000 self-help groups sprang up.

10:20 FEATURE FILM. "Return of Pink Panther"

Sunday 8 September

8:30 RHODA, "Blind Date"
9:10 DOCUMENTARY. "The Spike"
10:20 THE LOVE BOAT

Monday 9 September

8:30 WHO'S THE BOSS.

Watch out for the Pink Panther

"Paint Your Wagon"
9:10 SKIN DEEP, episode 5
10:20 WIDOWS, episode 4: Dolly decides to take revenge on the murderer of Linda. Harry and his gang are planning a new operation.

Tuesday 10 September

8:30 KATE AND ALLIE, episode 11
9:10 FOR THE TERM OF HIS NATURAL LIFE
10:20 FEATURE FILM

Wednesday 11 September

8:30 THREE'S COMPANY, "Boy Meets Dummy"
9:10 THE ROMANTIC SPIRIT, "Triumph of Death"
10:20 JESSIE, last episode: "Trick of Fate"

Thursday 12 September

8:30 NO PLACE LIKE HOME, episode 4
9:10 FLYING DOCTORS, episode 3
10:20 FOX MYSTERY THEATRE, "A Child's Play"

Friday 13 September

8:30 CHARLES IN CHARGE, "Mr Brilliant"

10:20 MACGRUDER AND LOUD, episode 10. "The Price of Junk": Jenny is working undercover in a Cuban heroin ring while searching for the mother of a 13-year old girl she has befriended.



William Guant as Arthur Crabtree, Stephen Watson as Paul Crabtree and Martin Clunes as Nigel Crabtree in NO PLACE LIKE HOME. Thursday at 8:30

New film releases Dance With A Stranger

A SIZZLING performance by debuting actress Miranda Richardson dominates this otherwise drab British melodrama. Set in the mid '50s, Richardson dynamically portrays a flashy nightclub hostess caught up in a tormented relationship that ends in her killing her playboy lover. Many undefined characters and baffling events are shrouded in the foggy London atmosphere. Based on the true story of Ruth Ellis, the last woman to receive the death penalty in England. (R) fair drama Dir - Mike Newell Rt-102 mins.

Detective

NEW WAVE filmmaker Jean-Luc Godard dishes up a thick stew of obscure characters, confusing dialogue and murky plot in this comic homage to films noir. Various men and women wander around a Paris hotel seeking love, money and contentment. It's all rather annoying to watch. And it takes some sweet and detective work on the audience's part to sort out the course of events. Stars Nathalie Baye, Johnny Hallyday and Claude Brasseur. In French. English titles. (No rating) boring comedy Dir-Jean-Luc Godard Rt-95 mins.

Cinema Corner with Reem A.H. Yasin

A Feast of Films on JTV

THE CHOICE of films that were presented on television over the holiday of Eid Al Adha was quite outstanding. Both the main and the foreign channels offered viewers a wide variety of films (most of which were high quality features) to suit different tastes and ages. The young ones revelled in the fantasy world of Walt Disney and the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm and their classic "Tom Thumb". For lovers of historical dramas there was Richard Burton's delightful impersonation of Henry VIII in "Anne of the Thousand Days" and Robert Taylor in Marlowe's "The Knights of the Round Table". Another film with a literary basis was "Moby Dick", Herman Melville's celebrated classic. For fans of Westerns there was Clint Eastwood's "For a Few Dollars More", and for those who prefer light entertainment there was the comedy film "How to Break Up a Happy Divorce".

But music lovers were especially favoured with one of the best musical films of all

times, "Westside Story", starring the charming Natalie Wood and directed by Robert Wise and Jerome Robbins with an enchanting musical score by Leonard Bernstein to the lyrics of Stephen Sondheim.

A production of 1961 and winner of that year's Academy Awards for Best Picture and best direction, "Westside Story" is based on the celebrated stage musical that had electrified Broadway a few years earlier. The successful transfer of the play to the screen offered evidence that it was possible to transcribe a theatrical property into a cinematically effective film.

"Westside Story" is a touching tale of young love trampled by intolerance. It is the theme of "Romeo and Juliet" shifted from Verona to New York's westside with its violence-plagued streets and its gang warfare. The two racially prejudiced gangs: The Puerto Rican Sharks and the American Jets are the modern versions of the Montagues and the Capulets, and Maria

and Tony are the ill fated lovers.

The romance between the Puerto Rican girl and the white boy is genuinely affecting, and their songs both apart and together ("Maria", "Tonight" and "One Hand, One Heart") are lovely and lyrical. But it is the dancing that truly galvanizes the film. The undercurrent rage, challenge and anger is expressed in dynamic dance sequences derived from the style of the New York City Ballet. The fights between the two gangs are stunningly choreographed, pulsating with vigour and exhilarating with excitement and form the focal dramatic point of the whole picture, with all its charged feelings.

"Westside Story" is perhaps the one musical film that does not paint a rosy picture of the world. It does not follow a rainbow or realise a dream, the ending is bloody and painful, hatred and prejudice remain while romance, tolerance and idealism are trampled upon leaving a bitter aftertaste that no amount of sweet music can wash away.

Video tops

Latest arrivals

• A View to a Kill • Gotcha • Red Dawn • The Teasers Go to Paris • Johnu Yuma • Inkaar (Indian). Arab: • Al-Hokom Akher Al-Jalsa • Souq El-Hamir

Popular movies

• Body Rock • End Game • Animal House • The Border • Starting Over • Inquilaab (Indian). Arab: • Al-Nas Al-Ghalaba • Al-Aeka wa Al-Darisa • Bait Al-Kaserat

Courtesy Video Shmel-sani - Amman.

LONDON Top Boxoffice Films:

1. A View to a Kill
-- Revenues \$105,731
2. Police Academy 2
-- Revenues \$51,339
3. The Purple Rose of Cairo
-- Revenues \$42,838
4. Return to Oz
-- Revenues \$41,037
5. Witness
-- Revenues \$33,168
6. Mask
-- Revenues \$27,951
7. Birdy
-- Revenues \$27,337
8. Beverly Hills Cop
-- Revenues \$19,855
9. My First Wife
-- Revenues \$15,701
10. Amadeus
-- Revenues \$13,844

FOR RENT

Two apartments in Um Uthaina, at the main street, Sa'ad Ibn Abi Waqqas Street.

The first consists of three bedrooms, salon, lounge, central heating, garage.
The second consists of two bedrooms, L-shaped salon, garden, garage, central heating.

Please call 810672

Handwritten text in Arabic script, likely a note or advertisement.



By GARY LARSON



5 SEPTEMBER 1985

Airbus also bail bailor basil
basis bass bias boar bolas trail
brass burial bursa bursal iso-
bar labour lair lass lasso liar
lias lobar oasis oral rail sail
sailor SALUBRIOUS saros sial
sisal slab soar solar sural
usual.

